

Private Bills

I trust you will find the attached revised version of "O Canada" of some interest.

Yours very truly,
William E. Algie.

The attached document is headed as follows: "O Canada," with word revisions by William E. Algie, Rotary club of Eglinton, Toronto, Ontario:

The suggested verse is as follows:

O Canada, our home, our treasured land,
True patriot love in all thy sons command.
With glowing hearts we see thee rise,
The true north strong and free.
The maple leaf, O Canada,
We fly on high for thee.
O Canada, glorious and free,
We stand on guard united, sea to sea.
O Canada, our hearts we pledge to thee.

Mr. Speaker, these verses would both get around the objections to the word "native" and reduce the words "stand on guard" from five to two mentions in the first case and from five to one mention in the second case. However, I may think that my alterations are fine and fitting, and I do think that Mr. Algie's are even better, but I am sure that each of you would have your own ideas as to how this verse should be altered, if you thought it should be altered at all. For myself, I am not convinced that it should be altered, at least not for some time. You would have difficulty, I submit, in getting 78 per cent of the people who are for "O Canada" as it is now to agree to any change in the original verses.

I am asking that the bill be passed today as it stands, therefore, without amendment or alteration and that changes, if any, be left to the future. Like any other bill, it can be amended by a future parliament, if there be a sufficient consensus.

If you will do this, hon. members, you will do much for your country, its unity and its posterity, and you will feel an even warmer glow of patriotic joy and pride when you next stand to sing "O Canada".

Mr. Nicholas Mandziuk (Marquette): Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate the hon. member for having given us the background and the historical evolution of this our national anthem. I think that 1962 was the last time I participated in a debate similar to this. There was then a resolution before this house calling upon the government of the day to bring in a bill which would declare "O Canada" as the national anthem.

I for one have no objection to having the national anthem declared by law, in spite of the fact that we have been singing "O Canada" for so long out west, and every-

where from sea to sea, without having a legislative enactment; and when we sing it, it lifts us up to high heaven. "We stand on guard"—whether that is sung by those who are native born or those who are newcomers to this country, it lifts us up. I do not mind calling Canada my native land, Mr. Speaker, because it is the native land of my children and my grandchildren. I go along with them, because I know no other land. So we will sing it without regard whether it is the subject of legislative enactment or whether it is according to custom.

Many countries have made their national anthem a matter of legislative enactment. Perhaps I may be permitted, Mr. Speaker, like the hon. member, to mention just a few and put them on record. For example, France had "Les Marseilles" decreed as her national anthem by the convention of July 14, 1795. Australia officially adopted "God save the Queen" as her national anthem. However, many Australians favour "Advance Australia Fair" or "Australia Will Be There", and so on. New Zealand declared its national anthem by legislative enactment in 1940; Ghana in 1957, India in 1950, and the United States by legislative enactment declared the "The Star Spangled Banner" as its national anthem. With regard to the Union of South Africa, I have not been able to find out whether "God Save The Queen", the national anthem of Great Britain, was ever declared to be or put on the statute books as the national anthem of that country.

I would support the bill in principle, Mr. Speaker. I have no objection to putting "O Canada" on the statute books, in spite of the fact that the bill does not mention another national emblem which we are accustomed to singing—and it is a custom. Even "O Canada" has been accepted by the Canadian people as a matter of custom; we have accepted it through the years. I do not know what they do in other parts of Canada, but in the part of Canada that I come from we start proceedings with "O Canada" and sing it as wholeheartedly as anyone, and end the proceedings with "God Save The Queen".

Mr. Speaker, everything points to this being a dual nation. We have two flags; we have two languages. Is there any objection to there being two national anthems? After the protestations of the Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson), the Minister of Justice (Mr. Favreau) and the leader of the Quebec Tories, who were all for the Queen and loyalty to the Queen, I think there is something missing from this bill. We might as well have put into it "God