

Canadian Flag

of rights. That is a great monument to my hon. friend. But there is no monument to the right hon. gentleman, the present Prime Minister, and there is not likely to be one if we can judge from the performance of the party opposite.

At the beginning of my remarks I spoke about unity. I referred to the position taken then by the right hon. gentleman when he said that if elected prime minister he would ask the people of Canada to express their views on this matter and leave it up to them.

Mr. Winkler: That is all we are asking.

Mr. Slogan: Even if this issue were completely removed from the House of Commons I do not think it would be any great loss to the country. In fact, *Le Devoir* on August 22 had something to say in this regard. I quote from a translation:

Let us not deplore the possible death of the Pearson project. The adoption of this project is not a matter of life or death for this country.

Let us rather deplore the inconsistencies of a chief of government who in May last drew premature praise from us though events now force us to realize that in a matter of principle he is somewhat lost in a fog.

I wish the Prime Minister were in his place. He is very seldom there. I do not think he really likes the House of Commons.

Mr. Grégoire: What about you?

Mr. Slogan: You are not in your seat, either.

Mr. Grégoire: I am here, though.

Mr. Slogan: Not all there.

Mr. Winch: The Prime Minister has work to do, though.

Mr. Slogan: I have said it is difficult to achieve a unifying symbol in a country which itself is not unified. I claim that the country today is not united. It does not take a magnifying glass to see that. This confederation of ours seems to be bursting at every seam. The Prime Minister, in bringing forward this issue, has sown the seeds of discord across this country.

Mr. Grégoire: That has been said at least 600 times before.

Mr. Slogan: I deplore the fact that this issue has become an issue between the French speaking and the Anglo-Saxon Canadians.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Slogan: It is obvious and I could prove my contention if some hon. members would contain themselves.

Mr. Winkler: Who is saying "no"? Ask yourselves that question.

Mr. Dupuis: That issue divided your party, not Canada.

Mr. Winkler: I simply asked: who is saying "no"?

An hon. Member: It is dividing the Liberal party.

Mr. Dupuis: Your party is divided, not Canada.

Mr. Slogan: If the federal members from Quebec who believe in democracy would allow me to speak I will finish what I have to say.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Slogan: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Lotbinière (Mr. Choquette) has always demonstrated that he has more brains in his seat than on his feet, and I ask him to contain himself.

Mr. Grégoire: Now you are right. Now I agree with you.

Mr. Slogan: Canada is made up of several groups of people—the Anglo-Saxons, the French and those of the third element. One of the reasons I am in favour of a referendum is that I think the Anglo-Saxon and the French fact has been played up out of all proportion. In my riding the Slavic and the German people are twice as numerous as are the Anglo-Saxons and the French. In this debate I am trying to portray some of their views. We have no antipathy toward either of those other groups. In fact we consider ourselves good Canadians and we consider our French neighbours and our Anglo-Saxon neighbours to be good Canadians, too. I grew up in a community where we began the morning in school by singing "O Canada" and ended it by singing "God Save the Queen".

We had no antipathy to either of those anthems. For a while we had the union jack flying over us; then we had the red ensign. We had as much devotion for one as for the other. I hope that as good Canadians, if any other design is voted for, we would show the same devotion to it. But, Mr. Speaker, I would hope that the views of all Canadians could be presented in this house without their being called down, because I as a gentleman object to that type of behaviour in this house.

Mr. Grégoire: Be serious. Ready for the question.