

*Canadian Flag*

rammed down our throats. We have a great deal more business to do in the country, and I say that this house as a whole, including myself, is receiving a very bad black eye from the public. They say: "What are you wasting your time about?" If the flag is so important to the members from Quebec then let us have the vote right now.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Boutin:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

[*Text*]

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** I recognize the hon. member for Yorkton.

**Mr. Clancy:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let us face the facts. If they split this country in this way Quebec will be left as an isolated area amid 300 million English speaking people. Let me say that my loyalty only goes so far. I can go north and south in western Canada and say they are my people. We do not want a Cyprus in Canada. In Cyprus the Greeks are trying to murder the Turks. I think it is time we all got together and forgot there were minorities or majorities. The whole argument is stupid.

If the people of this country want a new flag then let us find out what they want. Are we to sell all our traditions? I have read the history books and let me tell you that Wolfe won the battle on the plains of Abraham by a fluke; Montcalm lost it because he was asleep, and that is a fact. When this country was settled, all through the Ottawa valley and along the north shore the country was settled by Irishmen, Scotsmen and Englishmen, and they moved on further west. The same opportunity was given to every immigrant. I well remember an educated gentleman telling me 20 years ago that they were very glad to get rid of the Anglais. They were pleased the Anglais had moved west, and are very proud of having done so. The people of Quebec are now complaining about something for which they were responsible many years ago. I should just like to remind them that one might just as well starve on the prairies as starve in Quebec.

**Miss LaMarsh:** It does not matter where you starve.

**Mr. Clancy:** You people are now complaining because we have the land. I appreciate the remark made by the minister because it is typical of present Liberal thinking. I should like to point out that the people who moved west in the early days did so through a freedom of choice. This freedom of choice

[*Mr. Clancy.*]

can also be associated with those individuals who remained in Quebec.

Mr. Speaker, I do not wish to prolong this debate, but I feel I must say that if the government wishes to force a vote on this issue we will have to accept the proposed flag. We on this side of the house are as capable of counting members as those who sit on the other side. As I look at the benches I realize that the party whips will go out and bring in the members for any division. I also realize that the splinter parties are loyal to nothing in this country. I well remember the speeches made in favour of staying out of the war. I also remember that those people who made the speeches turned around the next day and voted that Canada go to war, but voted against the one thing that would have made Canada's effort effective. I refer to the old Mackenzie King idea about conscription: "Conscription if necessary but not necessarily conscription". This flag issue is of the same type as the conscription issue.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Boutin:** Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The hon. member who has the floor has just said that if the matter of the flag is so important for Quebec, it should be put to a vote immediately. Well, I can say on behalf of the members of our party, who are from Quebec, that we are ready to adopt the flag right away, without any debate.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** I wish to point out to the hon. member for Dorchester that his point of order is not well taken. Again I recognize the hon. member for Yorkton.

[*Text*]

Order, please.

**Mr. Clancy:** Why do you not speak in English? You know I am not bilingual and do not pretend to be. I suggested this flag debate is absolutely unnecessary at this time.

**An hon. Member:** It is six o'clock.

**Mr. Clancy:** I think every member in this house should be given the opportunity of voting as he feels he should vote. I can assure all members, in spite of press reports, that I am going to vote the way I feel I should, and that a great many other members of this party are going to do the same thing. I would like to see a free vote on this issue. At the time of division I will be interested to note the number of absentees. It will be interesting to see how many members stand behind the curtains. When a vote on an issue of this kind is taken every man should stand and be counted.