

*Canadian Flag*

liament within two years. I would have presumed that when he presented it to parliament it was the fulfilment of his promise. He was under no compulsion or obligation to present his design to parliament as a government measure; that was not necessary. He was under no compulsion to have the fate of that resolution govern the life of this parliament, or to make the life of this parliament contingent upon the acceptance of his personal choice, or for that matter the acceptance of any other choice. I have never ceased to wonder who conceived the design. Whose opinion was it that the traditions of the past, emblematic of the history of this country, should be disregarded, ignored and discarded? Why should they be? Who decided to bring this design to parliament anyway? That would be a good question to have answered. The Prime Minister and his ministers apparently do not consider the question important enough even to justify their participation in this debate.

**Some hon. Members:** Shame.

**Mr. Flemming (Victoria-Carleton):** Apart from the Prime Minister not one of them has stood up and said one word in this debate in defence of the resolution which has been presented and for which they are going to vote. I should like to know what are the views of the President of the Privy Council (Mr. McIlraith) who sits opposite me. Where does the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources (Mr. Laing) stand? What about the Solicitor General (Mr. MacNaught) who represents Prince Edward Island? Where does he stand on this?

**Mr. MacNaught:** Mr. Speaker—

**Some hon. Members:** Sit down.

**Mr. Flemming (Victoria-Carleton):** I am not yielding the floor.

**Mr. MacNaught:** I rise on a point of order.

**Mr. Flemming (Victoria-Carleton):** There is no question of order here.

**Mr. MacNaught:** A question of privilege.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cameron (High Park)):** Order. I think the hon. member for Victoria-Carleton requested an answer from the hon. gentleman, and he should be given the opportunity to answer.

**Mr. MacNaught:** Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Flemming (Victoria-Carleton):** No, I am not yielding the floor; not because I do not want to, but because my time will soon be up.

[Mr. Flemming (Victoria-Carleton).]

**Mr. MacNaught:** I have a question of privilege.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cameron (High Park)):** I would ask the hon. member for Victoria-Carleton to resume his seat and bow to my ruling.

**Some hon. Members:** No.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. MacNaught:** My hon. friend—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cameron (High Park)):** Order. I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, may I speak? I was going to compliment you on being in the chair, and at the same time I would say to you there is no question of privilege here or any right to rise at all at this time, irrespective of the fact that it would be most commendable at least to have an opinion from one of the ministers.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cameron (High Park)):** With all due deference to the Leader of the Opposition, and thanking him for his complimentary remarks, the hon. member for Victoria-Carleton did ask the minister who wishes to raise a question of privilege to state where he stood on this matter, and I have granted to him that privilege. When he has answered I think that will be sufficient.

**Mr. Nugent:** Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, the minister can make a speech later, or can answer the question later.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cameron (High Park)):** With all respect to the hon. member I do not think that is a point of order.

**Mr. MacNaught:** Mr. Speaker, in reply to the hon. member who posed the question, the stand of the Solicitor General will be made abundantly clear when the vote is taken.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Flemming (Victoria-Carleton):** Mr. Speaker, that is exactly the answer that I expected. He is going to stand up and have his nose counted, and that is all he has to say about the matter. What about the Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys (Mr. Benidickson)? Where does he stand?

**Mr. Benidickson:** I will vote, too.

**Mr. Flemming (Victoria-Carleton):** So, Mr. Speaker, they acknowledge that they are