

The Red Ensign has been flying over it for many years past. I wonder what the thousands of tourists and visitors from the surrounding countries are going to think when they see the new flag go up and the old Red Ensign come down. They are going to see the flag with the maple leaf. I hope they will not think that Canada has made a present of Vimy Ridge to the Toronto Maple Leafs hockey team as a reward for winning the Stanley Cup.

We respect the Union Jack; of course we do. What country does not? What would have happened to this world in the two world wars if it had not been for the Union Jack?

Just a few moments ago my good friend Senator Aseltine handed me an editorial from the Toronto *Daily Star*. It is headed "The Jack for Joey". After discussing the uselessness of another debate on the flag, it leads up to a comment on the official symbol of Canada's membership in the Commonwealth. It says that the Progressive Conservative party and the N.D.P.s are right in favouring the Red Ensign for this purpose. I quote:

On this issue, the Opposition parties are right. The Red Ensign, combining as it does British and Canadian symbols, is the obvious flag to be flown at royal visits and other ceremonial occasions to indicate that Canada is a member of the Commonwealth. It is far more suitable for this purpose than the Union Jack which is, after all, the national flag of Great Britain. The Ensign has been far more widely used in Canada in recent decades, and is obviously much more popular, than the Union Jack.

If the Government were to agree to the Red Ensign as the Commonwealth banner, it would reduce the bitterness created by the earlier flag debate. By giving the Ensign an official status, it would soothe the feelings of the many thousands of Canadians who wanted it as the national flag.

The Government seems bent on not reducing any bitterness. It seems to do things that go from bitterness to more bitterness and more bitterness. Here is another paragraph:

Mr. Pearson's insistence on pushing the Union Jack, in defiance of tact and common sense, gives support to the Conservative charge that he is redeeming a pledge to Premier Smallwood of Newfoundland.

That is not good enough.

Honourable senators, I am not going to say anything more. To make any further comment is useless. The whole situation is bewildering and, indeed, hard to understand. It will be more bewildering to the people of

Canada. If it is hard for some of us here to understand, then how much harder will it be for people outside Parliament and in other parts of the country?

In closing I say this: We are supporting this resolution, and as far as we are concerned we see no value in any long debate. We are only met with frustrations and futility.

**Hon. Malcolm Hollett:** Honourable senators, I do not intend to make a speech, but I would like to ask the honourable Leader of the Government (Hon. Mr. Connolly, Ottawa West) before the debate is concluded if he would answer two questions.

My first question is this: Is the Union Jack flown by all other members of the Commonwealth of Nations as a symbol of such membership?

It will be noticed that the resolution states that the Union Jack is to be flown as a symbol of our membership in the Commonwealth.

The second part of the resolution is to the effect that the Union Jack may continue to be flown as a symbol of Canada's allegiance to the Crown. I should like to ask the honourable Leader of the Government this question: What flag did we fly prior to this date to show our allegiance to the Crown?

I shall certainly vote for the resolution, but I would like these questions answered.

**Hon. M. Grattan O'Leary:** Honourable senators, before the honourable Leader of the Government (Hon. Mr. Connolly, Ottawa West) answers the questions of the honourable senator from Newfoundland (Hon. Mr. Hollett), I would like to put a question. I am certainly not going to make a speech.

The honourable Leader of the Government wrapped up this resolution in noble sentiment and some excellent rhetoric. But I am looking at the resolution itself, which says that the Royal Union Flag, generally known as the Union Jack, may continue to be flown as a symbol of Canada's membership in the Commonwealth of Nations, and so on. Does that mean that the Red Ensign may not continue to be flown? On what occasions are we going to fly the Union Jack in order to show our allegiance to the Crown and the Commonwealth of Nations? Will it be flown on July 1, or on some other occasion? And does this resolution mean that on July 1, or on some other occasion of like nature, we shall not be permitted to fly the Red Ensign?

It seems to me that as the resolution stands it is meaningless. It merely says that we may continue to fly the Union Jack. There is no law in this country preventing anybody from flying any flag, as the Prime Minister reminded us not so long ago when he flew his own flag on the lawn of the