

Canadian Flag

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is the hon. member rising on a point of order?

Mr. Olson: Yes, Mr. Speaker. We know it is contrary to the rules for members of this house to read their speeches. Since it is obvious the hon. member for The Battlefords is reading his speech we should give our permission, take it as read and have it recorded in *Hansard*. Then we could get on with the business of the house.

Mr. Nasserden: Mr. Speaker, that is one of the most shameful allegations that has ever been made in this House of Commons. The hon. member has indicated that the member for The Battlefords—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please; the hon. member has suggested, as has been done on many occasions before, that the hon. member is possibly reading his speech and it should therefore be tabled. I think the remark should be taken in the spirit in which it appeared to be made. I urge hon. members to co-operate with the Chair and co-operate also with the hon. member for The Battlefords by giving him a chance to make his speech. The Chair recognizes, and all hon. members know, that hon. members are not to read speeches, although some members take the liberty of referring to extensive and copious notes. Perhaps this is what the hon. member is doing now.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Horner (The Battlefords): Thank you, Mr. Speaker; for a few minutes I will stick fairly closely to my notes, and then I am going to put them down. Perhaps hon. members opposite will wish I was still reading.

Mr. Choquette: Who wrote that speech?

Mr. Horner (The Battlefords): I have noticed the absence of Mr. Kent from the house, and perhaps that explains why we have not heard any speeches from hon. members opposite. They have no ghost writer. I wrote this speech myself, if that information is of any help to the hon. member who sits there in his seat and chortles at me. The first and most important fact that many people have ignored since the flag debate began is that the Liberal party stands for two flags whereas the Conservative party stands for one flag.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Choquette: Mr. Speaker, I raise a point of order and I will stand my ground to the end, because it is obvious that we are now victims of a filibuster that downgrades parliament. The hon. member is reading every

[*Mr. Olson.*]

word of his speech and he does not have the right to do that, because it is against the rules of the house. Therefore, I would ask you to watch him closely and you will notice that he is unable to take his eyes off his text a single second. Since he refuses to comply with the rules, I would ask you to order him to resume his seat.

[*Text*]

Mr. Winkler: If I might speak to that point, I think the hon. member for Lotbinière (Mr. Choquette) should read the Prime Minister's code of ethics and maybe he would be a little more gentle in his approach to this matter.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Choquette: Mr. Speaker, about the point of order raised by the hon. member for Grey-Bruce (Mr. Winkler). I would like to know who are those gentlemen in the house; are they those who force this degrading filibuster on us or those who wish to encourage progress?

[*Text*]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order please. The point raised by the hon. member for Lotbinière is to some extent well taken. There are any number of citations to indicate that it is contrary to the rules to read speeches, but on the other hand a certain degree of leniency has been allowed in the course of this debate and I would suggest that that same leniency and generosity be extended to the hon. member for The Battlefords. At the same time I would ask him to try and make the Chair's task a little easier by not following his notes too closely.

Mr. Horner (The Battlefords): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not want to make your task difficult. At the same time I want to let it be known to the hon. member for Lotbinière (Mr. Choquette) that in spite of all his interruptions I will continue to speak. The Liberal party advocates that those who want to show their respect to the commonwealth can fly the union jack—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. May I ask the co-operation of hon. members who seem to be exchanging remarks that are a little strong, across the aisle. I ask the co-operation of all concerned in order to allow the hon. member to continue his speech.

Mr. Winkler: I would ask you, sir, to ask the Minister without Portfolio (Mr. Dupuis) to contain himself.