

Canadian Flag

Mr. Webb: The disturbing elements in favour of a new flag stem from a conspiracy of non-Canadians who have set themselves to wreck Canada and the whole commonwealth. I have heard many times lately from some of my friends that they do not fear communism and are not afraid of the dangers of war caused by aggression. I do not agree with them. I fear war; I fear communism and the results of aggression.

Mr. Speaker: Order please. I must tell the hon. member, I hope for the last time, that he must stick to the matter under discussion. He knows perfectly well the subject under discussion is the plebiscite. Will he please discuss it?

Mr. Webb: I have here a letter dated October 17—

An hon. Member: Another.

Mr. Webb: I think if the Minister without Portfolio (Mr. Dupuis) were in his office licking those three leaf bumper stickers he would be kept busy.

[Translation]

Mr. Dupuis: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I have the right to call to order a member whose remarks are not in compliance with the rules. Moreover, if the hon. member wants a sticker, I think it would be a good thing to stick one on his mouth.

[Text]

Mr. Webb: I imagine the price has gone down, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Dupuis: You are going down.

Mr. Webb: I have a letter here from Martha J. Shangraw of Verona, Ontario—

Mr. Grégoire: If you read it you will have to table it.

Mr. Webb: Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that for the small sum of \$50 the people of Lapointe could buy a parrot and send it here where it would do a more effective job than the hon. member. This letter is signed by Mrs. Martha J. Shangraw, a lady who had 41 relatives in the two world wars and who lost four sons.

I have another letter here asking for a plebiscite—

Mr. Grégoire: Three thousand, seven hundred and forty five.

Mr. Webb: The lady who wrote this letter said the red ensign is a beautiful flag and she sees nothing wrong with it. She points out that her father was not born in this country but came here from Denmark.

I have another letter here asking for a plebiscite—

Mr. Grégoire: Three thousand seven hundred and forty six.

Mr. Muir (Lisgar): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, you have given a certain amount of latitude to the hon. member for Hastings-Frontenac (Mr. Webb) but it seems to me that hon. members opposite and those to my left are taking a great deal more latitude than is proper under parliamentary procedure.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I very much regret these interruptions but surely the Chair does not have to act as a schoolmaster continually. I have made a few suggestions to hon. members and I hope they will follow them.

Mr. Webb: They do not disturb me in the least, Mr. Speaker. I am just hopeful these hon. members will some day grow up. I have another letter here asking about a plebiscite. It is from a Mr. James Cummings. He says that it is pretty late in the day and that we must all be sick of the flag debate, but the great mass of non-vocal Canadians cannot understand why parliament must be pushed around by a minority government and why this issue cannot be decided by a plebiscite. I have one or two other messages here, Mr. Speaker, but you might rule them out of order. I have here, too, a copy of the order in council which was passed in 1945 declaring that it will be proper to fly the Canadian red ensign within or without Canada whenever the place or occasion—

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Langlois: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I do not have anything against the hon. member for Hastings-Frontenac (Mr. Webb) especially, but I believe he has been out of order for some time. He is now reading to us an order passed in 1945 concerning the red ensign. I agree that if we confine ourselves entirely to what is said in Beauchesne's fourth edition it is difficult to define relevancy. As the author says, a wrong comprehension might have a serious effect on the freedom of speech and in borderline cases members should be given the benefit of the doubt. However, if we turn to May's sixteenth edition we find at page 451 the following:

A member must direct his speech to the question then under discussion...debate must not stray from