

*Canadian Flag*

This is what a mechanic has to say:

I know if the new proposal of a white and blue flag with red maple leaves is adopted that it will not be the Canadian flag, but the Pearson flag. Now it's bad enough to think about this ghastly design hanging out, but to have a one-man flag is (to me) not too democratic.

This communication is from a machinist:

If a few well placed sticks of dynamite and treacherous acts of vandalism can scare Mr. Pearson into quickly hauling down our flag, then it could well be that the threat of invasion or aerial bombing would scare him into handing over our country.

The union jack and the Canadian ensign have represented to the world our belief in justice, freedom and democracy. If this flag falls without a vote of the people on this issue, then the enemies of democracy world-wide will receive a great moral boost and our diplomatic position shall be weakened.

A lady who lost a son in the last war said:

What was good enough then for them to fight for is still good enough for us all. I'll not vote for the Grits anymore.

A housewife said:

At last the Prime Minister's choice of flag has been made public. What does it signify? Canadian foliage to be sure, but what about our Canadian heritage?

A district representative for a large company has this to say:

—I was in Sudbury on the week end and I never saw so many red ensigns and union jacks flying in my life. Every one in our riding, including Liberals, are very upset of Pearson trying to force it down the people's throats, and I have yet to talk to anyone that favours a new flag other than the red ensign.

...My own personal opinion is that our Prime Minister is a traitor to his country and people on this issue.

This is a letter from a fruit grower:

—If Mr. Pearson and his colleagues are sincere in keeping Canada united, they will by all means keep the union jack on the flag.

I received this letter by air mail from England:

As a 1914 1st division veteran now revisiting Flanders and the British Isles, I most strenuously protest the proposal of Mr. Pearson to change our flag and national emblem. Please make every effort to prevent.

This one in reference to Mr. Pearson states:

His image of himself as omnipotent (on the matter of his very own choice of flag particularly) is frightful. It smacks of Hitler in his heyday, positive of his rightness while he was pulling his country down to ruin.

This letter is from an Indian chief:

The Indians were native to this land—surely they should not be ignored or overlooked in this whole flag issue. We have learned to respect our allegiance to the British crown. Now Mr. Pearson is trying to force us to respect the flag that has

[Mr. Noble.]

no meaning for us at all. The flag is a symbol of many things, not just a cloth flying with three maple leaves. It must signify many things as every flag stands for an ideal for which men are willing to live and die for.

The following is written by a Canadian citizen living in Holland:

I am a Canadian whose work has necessitated living away from Canada but I have always been proud of our flag—the red ensign. The proposed flag has neither beauty nor meaning.

A retired merchant has stated:

I do not agree with those who say that a flag symbol is of little consequence and that any old rag will do.

A housewife writes:

Who started this thing anyway, and why should we have such a ridiculous looking piece of bunting shoved on us as a national flag? Get busy and put it to an all-Canadian vote and see what happens.

Mr. Speaker, I should like to read a letter addressed to the editor from the *Ottawa Citizen* of August 6, 1964 as follows:

The lack of teaching in our schools the meaning of our great flag; how it came to us, the democracy it brought and still stands for, and of the great union of free men and free nations written in its colour. The Canadian red ensign... not only speaks of the great struggle to win freedom; it proclaims to the rest of the world that free men will be free at any cost, and so long as free nations stand together.

The political and individual disregard for our country's future; disunity and separatism not only within our boundaries, but more seriously so, the eventual separation from the great union of free nations.

The indifference of Canadians on the whole; the lack of dignity and respect of their heritage, and the present lack of interest in protecting that heritage...

Mr. Speaker, perhaps the best endorsement I can put on the record in respect of a national flag is that during the last election campaign my Liberal opponent stood solidly for the Canadian red ensign, and made announcements to that effect during radio addresses.

These are samples of the observations coming from the grass roots of my riding of Grey North. If the facts were all known, this is a typical consensus of the vast majority of Ontario ridings. This is a strong and influential voice and I would caution the Prime Minister not to treat it lightly, for here lies the real fibre and backbone of the nation. Speeches by Ontario members sitting on the government benches are in large part conspicuous by their absence. I would challenge them to get on their feet and speak out honestly for the people they represent. If they decline to do this and try to hide under