

Canadian Commonwealth Flag

his province, because this premier said that he would never tolerate any flag other than the union jack or the red ensign to be flown on government buildings in his province.

Why two flags, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Graftiey: Why two?

Mr. Paul: Why two? And I was very interested in the remarks, or the explanation, which the right hon. Prime Minister tried to give when supporting the report of the committee chairman. He has not brought forward any arguments, he has only provided pretexts.

Is there a country in the world with two flags?

We have had to wait 97 years to have a distinctive national flag and now, within three or four days, we are going to have two flags to offer to the Canadian people and to the rest of the world.

Mr. Speaker, I have listened with interest also to some hon. members of my own province who have risen in support of the second proposed flag, the union jack; no doubt, I shall have the pleasure of seeing them in my riding, during the next election, with the two flags.

Mr. Graftiey: Never, only one.

Mr. Paul: Mr. Speaker, the seventh report of the committee is going to be put to a vote. Let us hope it will be tonight. Now, I want to take this opportunity to tell my colleagues, the members of the province of Quebec: "Be completely at ease to rise and vote against the adoption of the second flag." The right hon. Prime Minister has told us that it was going to be a free vote. We, in the Conservative party, are absolutely free to vote as we please on matters dealt with in this report and I hope the Liberal members are also free to do so.

I have no doubt—

Mr. Deschatelets: You were not free, a while ago, in caucus.

Mr. Paul: I hear the hon. member for Maisonneuve-Rosemont (Mr. Deschatelets), my good friend the Minister of Public Works. How enthusiastically the voters will salute you when you offer them these two flags. You could say: My dear constituents, we are the only government in the world to give two flags to its citizens.

I hope to have the opportunity to see the flag for special occasions flying in front of the house of the Minister of Public Works and the second flag behind his residence or

[Mr. Paul.]

vice-versa. What a sight, Mr. Speaker, two flags being bestowed on Canada.

I see the hon. member for Lotbinière (Mr. Choquette), my good friend. I would like him to name a republic in the world which has two flags.

Mr. Choquette: Nigeria.

Mr. Paul: Perhaps the republic of Lotbinière will have two flags.

Mr. Choquette: Name me a party with two leaders who disagree.

Mr. Paul: Mr. Speaker, it is unfortunate that I should be unable to reply to the one who has just spoken as he does not speak from his seat, which he does quite often.

Mr. Grégoire: He does not know the standing orders.

Mr. Pigeon: And the hon. member for York-Humber (Mr. Cowan)?

Mr. Paul: Why, Mr. Speaker, does the government bring forward this second flag which we do not need?

I was listening with great admiration and emotion to the right hon. Prime Minister when, on the nights of Monday and Tuesday, he made a plea for unity around a distinctive national flag to be chosen by the House of Commons. Why give the opportunity to the people of Canada to divide around two flags? Only one flag can represent the most legitimate aspirations of all the citizens of Canada to make our country progress; only one flag is sufficient to proclaim to the whole world that, finally, under the banner of this new flag, there are no longer different races or languages, but, on the contrary, that the rights of the minorities are respected, because all the people are willing to co-operate, to walk hand in hand toward progress and prosperity for Canada?

But no, it is an occasion for division, as has always practised the Liberal party which preaches different policies in the English speaking provinces and in the province of Quebec.

We are sincere, we want the tremendous sacrifice we made last Monday to sanction our choice not to be in vain. We do not want this flag to be an occasion for dispute, but it will be, Mr. Speaker, if the government persists in its plan and tries, as it has always done in other fields, to run with the hare and hunt with the hounds.

Mr. Speaker, we will not vote for a second flag. Personally, I will also vote against the