

*Canadian Flag*

pass an order in council indicating that the three maple leaf design shall be the flag of our nation, which is his design?

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**An hon. Member:** The report is there.

**Mr. Coates:** "The report is there", my hon. friend says. What guarantee have we that this report will be enacted in any way? Many reports have been adopted by this house with regard to which governments have taken absolutely no action. How do we know this is not going to be the case in this instance? How do we know what design the government will decide upon? Certainly there used to be a leader of the Liberal party who looked into crystal balls and came up with decisions. Maybe that is all right for Liberals, but Conservatives want facts. We want to know where these various ministers stand with regard to the flag design they are eventually going to foist upon this Canadian nation, a design which has no association with our past in any way, shape or form.

There are many implications in the report of the flag committee. We demand an explanation from this government as to what it is going to do about the report, and how it is going to do it, before the house can look forward to our acceptance of this report. We have noticed in the past, and in the recent past, that the Prime Minister sometimes likes to find himself in other places when questions should be answered in this house. In the past we have been put in a position where we could not secure the answer from the Prime Minister, when he found it best to be somewhere else in this nation. But this is not going to be the case with regard to the report of the flag committee that is before the house at this time, and we will get answers to the questions we are asking now or this report will not receive the concurrence necessary for it to be enacted in this house—and it is just as simple as that.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Coates:** This arrogant silence we have had to contend with from this arrogant government for too long now, on this matter of vital importance affecting every Canadian in every part of this nation, is not going to continue if there is to be any hope by this government of having the report of the flag committee accepted, even on a division. Certainly if the government desire the degree of unity that they talk about so often in this

house, I suggest to them that the Prime Minister of this nation come into the house and indicate to us that they are willing to accept a flag design which has contained in it symbols of our past, of the history and tradition of the founding races of this nation. I suggest that he indicate that he does not want a near-Peruvian flag as the national flag of this country, that he saw some merit in the great speech made by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Diefenbaker) in this house today, that there is real merit in the stand that has been taken in this house by the official opposition in regard to—

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Rondeau:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

I should like to bring to your attention the fact that from the outset of his remarks, the hon. member who now has the floor, has not addressed the Chair once. Since he has very few interesting things to tell we would ask him at least to address the Chair.

[*Text*]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Richard):** Order. Will the hon. member resume his seat.

**Mr. Coates:** Mr. Speaker, that is the inconsequential type of interruption that has been forthcoming from that quarter of the house. It should be ignored because it has absolutely no merit, and there are no manners associated with it either.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Coates:** Every time a member rises in this house and starts to talk about history and tradition we hear from those who have no desire to continue the past history and tradition of this nation; they go blabbering on with inconsequential interjections, unwilling to listen to reason, unwilling to listen to anything; willing only to force their will on the Canadian nation and blot out—

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Plourde:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

If the hon. member for Cumberland (Mr. Coates) wants to vent his spleen on some of his colleagues, let him not turn toward the members at the other end of the house. We called order simply because he was addressing the members of the house instead of the Chair, as he should do. He has not been addressing the Chair for exactly three minutes and he is talking about the point of order made by the hon. member who rose before me.