

*Canadian Flag***AFTER RECESS**

The house resumed at 8 p.m.

**Mr. Horner (The Battlefords):** Mr. Speaker, I rise to take part in this debate and I make no apologies for doing so. A matter that affects every Canadian now and for generations, the making of a change in the flag design, is of the utmost importance. The government has made such a mess of handling this issue that the only way out is to allow the Canadian people to decide at the next election by means of a plebiscite. Why are members opposite so opposed to a plebiscite if they are so sure the maple leaf design will win? The trouble is, Mr. Speaker, they are not sure at all.

Since we have returned to the flag debate my mail has been increasing and all the letters I have received endorse the stand we are taking on having the matter decided by a plebiscite. The polls that have been conducted in the cities indicate that a majority of the people approached were in favour of a plebiscite. If polls were conducted in the rural areas, they would show a large percentage of the people were in favour of a plebiscite. I received one letter from a man—a very honest man—who stated that even though he had not voted for me at the election he was 100 per cent in favour of having the matter decided by a plebiscite. He was solidly behind the stand of this party for having the question of a flag decided in that way.

The question of the flag is one of vital importance, Mr. Speaker, and its importance is based on two main points. First, it is one of the most emotionally charged issues with which the House of Commons has been asked to deal. If it is not properly handled it could seriously jeopardize the dreams of the fathers of confederation. The matter of choosing a flag is not ordinary legislation. The House of Commons is called upon every year to debate the speech from the throne, supply, the budget and so on. Laws are made and modified every day in this house. However, it is only once in a hundred years or so that parliament is called upon to approve a flag which would then be flown for generations to come. A flag is not something we can change in a day because the majority of the members of the House of Commons so desire. Let us remember that once we have a flag it will always be there. It will be there throughout our lives.

There are Canadians in Canada who say that the very nature of the flag issue imposes upon us the task of solving the problem with-

out endangering the unity of Canada in any way. We hear many members opposite say, "Let us vote". I challenge them to let us have a plebiscite. The trouble is that there is a tendency among some Liberals and some newspapermen to dispose of the flag issue by ignoring certain fundamental facts, and thereby deliberately misleading the people of Canada. The first, and most important—

**Mr. Choquette:** Who wrote that speech?

**An hon. Member:** Let us hear from you.

**Mr. Winkler:** Let us hear you make a speech; you have not got the fortitude.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Choquette:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

The hon. member is reading his whole speech, which is absolutely out of order. We are thoroughly fed up with things in this house and with members who read speeches written by somebody else.

[*Text*]

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order; the hon. member has no right to suggest that an hon. member's speech has been written by another.

**Mr. Winkler:** On the point of order, Mr. Speaker, may I say that the hon. member for Lotbinière (Mr. Choquette) always interferes in this particular manner, but never wishes to express his own views. We wish that if he had the intestinal fortitude, he would get up and express his views on this subject.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order. The hon. member for Grey-Bruce is out of order to the same extent and in the same way as the hon. member for Lotbinière was.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Choquette:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege.

The hon. member says that I do not want to get up in order to express my opinion. This is not so, since my views are clear and definite. I am against the plebiscite and against a member reading a speech in the house.

[*Text*]

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please; may I suggest to hon. members that we return to the subject matter of the discussion and allow the hon. member for The Battlefords to continue his remarks?

**Mr. Olson:** I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker.