

*Canadian Flag*

[Translation]

**Mr. Caouette:** Mr. Speaker, would it be possible to silence the stupid people who interrupt from time to time in this chamber?

As far as we are concerned, Mr. Speaker, we will vote for the motion introduced by the government and will not be afraid to assume our responsibility for that action before our electors.

We intended to move an amendment to that motion, or an amendment to the present amendment, in order to propose the flag that I had this afternoon in the house. We will not do so.

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

**Mr. Caouette:** We will not do it because we are anxious for a distinctive national flag to be adopted in this house for the whole of Canada. We do not have the right to delay the adoption of a distinctive national flag, and I am not saying that because I am a Liberal, far from it; I may be one in the true sense of the word but not in the shrunken sense it has at the level of a political party.

Mr. Speaker, we will fully support the first government resolution and we will vote against the Conservative amendment because it is meaningless, since that party did not take its responsibilities when it was sitting on your right a few years back.

We will vote and we will not be afraid to take our responsibilities. That is why, Mr. Speaker, our group will vote against the amendment moved by the leader of the opposition and the hon. member for Trois-Rivières and the hon. member for Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm will no doubt join us in that respect.

On the other hand, we are not satisfied with the proposed design; we would have preferred another one. Still, before the 10.30 edition of the C.B.C. news last night, I saw on television the new maple leaf flag flying from some flagpole and I must admit that it did attract attention. The flag is a means of creating, not so much pride, at home, but a deep satisfaction in having a typically Canadian flag, representing all sections of Canada and not only part of it.

Mr. Speaker, a few days ago, when we came into this house with the miniature design of a flag we were favouring, I heard a Conservative member say that we only had a rag to offer. I shall answer him exactly as Molière says in "Les Femmes savantes": "Rag it is, if you call it that way, but my rag is dear to me." The rag that the right hon. Prime Minister of Canada has presented, is agreeable

to us; it is dear to us because it represents the Canadian spirit.

But we can neither imagine nor accept that the Conservatives or the non-Canadian elements—I repeat it, they are not Canadians—object to a distinctive national flag.

This emblem which we want for Canada is the one advocated by La Ligue du Canada and the Native Sons of Canada. It will not be accepted, we will not put it forward as a subamendment or an amendment, because we are looking forward to the disposal of the flag issue, and we feel that there are more important problems to deal with in Canada. The flag must mean something for Canadians and we do not want to see an unemployed strolling about with a flag which for him would mean poverty amidst plenty.

The right hon. Prime Minister expressed it very well yesterday afternoon, when he said: Not only the flag, but also the fight against undeserved poverty in a Canada of plenty. In that respect, we shall support the Prime Minister without reserve.

Yet, at the same time, I shall ask the Prime Minister to listen to us and to consider the suggestions we have made during the past three years in the House of Commons.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order. May I interrupt the hon. member, because his time expired at eight thirty o'clock. I thought I might grant him about five additional minutes, considering the various points of order and questions of privilege which were raised during his remarks.

Unless he is just about to finish his remarks, I would suggest that the hon. member give his place to another member.

**Mr. Caouette:** Only two minutes more, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Pigeon:** No, Mr. Speaker, no, no, no.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. Favreau:** To my mind, it would be in order that the five parties grant the hon. member another five minutes.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order. The hon. member for Villeneuve will admit that he cannot continue his remarks without the unanimous consent of the house. He has been refused this unanimous consent.

**Some hon. Members:** Yes, yes, yes.

**Mr. Pigeon:** No, no.

**Mr. Caouette:** I think I have unanimous consent—

[Text]

**Mr. Pigeon:** No, Mr. Speaker.