

Canadian Flag

official opposition. It seems to me that in those words we have the core and crux of what we wish to hold dear within this land of ours. As the then hon. member for Lake Centre said, the house on that occasion became cathedral in devotion. In the name of all the things we hold dear, Mr. Speaker, let us not now take action that in any way is going to disturb, even to the most minute degree, the sentiments of the house on that occasion and, I am sure, the sentiments of the house as they prevail today.

It would seem to me that in our great land of Canada today we have a large number of people who do not come from the United Kingdom. We have a large number of people who come from various parts of Europe and who, by our standards of unity and freedom in Canada, are rapidly becoming loyal Canadians, ready to stand in defence of our beloved land. We also have those who have come here at terrific sacrifices of their own, and quite possibly extreme sacrifices by the members of their families whom they left behind. These people have come to Canada to enjoy a life of freedom in a land where prejudice, racial antagonism and religious antagonism play a minor part.

If we are to judge from past experience we could bring into this house not 2,600 designs for a national flag but possibly 26,000 designs. The likelihood that this would result in a majority opinion of the cosmopolitan groups of people who today are the real backbone of our nation in favour of one design is not very real. I admit that in this discussion we have heard the opinions of individuals; but I say to you, Mr. Speaker, that none of us is able to speak for any large number of people in the areas from which we come on this particular subject.

We have, as I have stated, many ideas as to what constitutes patriotism. Some feel that our patriotism in Canada should extend many miles beyond the borders of our own terrain. Others feel that it should be confined within the geographical limits of Canada. With this divergence of views in mind, let us not hurriedly do something that is going to turn out to be a retrograde step.

I could give you my opinion as to what a distinctive Canadian flag should be like. I cannot say, however, that any great number of people in this house would agree with my opinion. I would say without fear of contradiction that as members of this house we have sworn our allegiance to our gracious sovereign. History tells us that certain concessions have been granted by the sovereign to certain societies. I think it is fair to

assume from this that if concessions were granted by the sovereign to these societies similar concessions might be granted to a nation. I would hope we might keep that specifically in mind. If we allowed a decision on this matter to be made hurriedly, in all likelihood it would bring about a greater divergence of opinion than now exists and might affect the whole future of the Dominion of Canada.

After having listened to quite a number of speeches today on this issue I would hope that we might be able to take a second look at this issue. It is always well, when you are dealing with a subject which has a particular emotional appeal, not to let your emotions run away with you. That being true, it would seem to me prudent that we take not only a second look but perhaps a third look at this issue before a decision is made. We have had a long history of progress and development in this land. This progress and advancement evolved because most of the people of Canada were behind the steps that were taken to bring about that measure of progress which we enjoy today.

With that in mind, sir, I take pleasure in moving the adjournment of the debate.

The house divided on the motion (Mr. MacDougall) which was agreed to on the following division:

YEAS

Messrs:

Abbott	Decore
Anderson	Denis
Applewhaite	Deschatelets
Arsenault	Deslières
Ashbourne	Dickey
Balcom	Dumas
Batten	Dupuis
Benidickson	Enfield
Bennett (Grey North)	Eudes
Blanchette	Eyre
Boisvert	Fairey
Boivin	Follwell
Bonnier	Forgie
Boucher (Chateauguay- Huntingdon-Laprairie)	Fraser (St. John's East)
Boucher (Restigouche- Madawaska)	Garland
Bourget	Garson
Bourque	Gauthier (Lake St. John)
Breton	Gauthier (Nickel Belt)
Brisson	Gauthier (Portneuf)
Brown (Brantford)	Gingras
Brown (Essex West)	Gour (Russell)
Buchanan	Gourd (Chapleau)
Byrne	Gregg
Cameron (High Park)	Habel
Campney	Hanna
Cardin	Harris
Carter	Harrison
Cauchon	Healy
Cavers	Hellyer
Cloutier	Henderson
Croll	Henry
	Hollingsworth