

the way the flag question was introduced was unfortunate. Last May the Prime Minister said, "We shall have a three maple leaf flag, and the Government will stand or fall on the issue." He threatened the people of Canada with an election unless we accepted a three maple leaf flag. There was a deadline set. First it was July; later it was the occasion of the Queen's visit. The Prime Minister modified his position as far as an election was concerned by saying, "There will be a free vote." Then the question went to a committee of the other house. A most unfortunate thing occurred while the flag question was being studied by that committee, and it was that during that time the Prime Minister set yet another deadline and said, "We shall have a flag by Christmas and it will be the maple leaf design." Honourable senators, in my opinion that made the flag a political issue, which it need never have been.

I suggest the flag is such an important matter for our country that there should be no hurry in choosing it. It is one of the most important matters that Parliament has been called upon to decide. It would be tragic if a decision were arrived at without exploring all the angles, so that we had reason later to regret it. A flag is a symbol of a nation, a symbol for which the people should have a warm attachment. It is important to the people of the nation that any flag chosen should have the support of the vast majority.

It is unfortunate we did not tackle the problem by appointing a joint committee of the Senate and House of Commons. I repeat the flag should never have been a political issue. We are all interested in a new flag, as Canadians and not as party members, no matter to what party we belong.

Surely it is not too much to ask that we take our time and select a suitable design, one that would be less controversial than the proposed design. I feel strongly that a committee of both the Senate and House of Commons could introduce some new ideas so that we could adopt a flag which would be genuinely accepted by the Canadian people.

There should be no winners or losers on the flag issue. The flag adopted should promote national unity, not bitterness. That is the reason I support the amendment.

**Hon. John J. Kinley:** Honourable senators, the story of the flag is getting rather old, and I do not know of anything I could say that would add much to our knowledge of the subject. However, we do say things in a different way, and we are anxious at an important time like this to say something which will show the people we represent that we are interested in the matter and we want to give them leadership on an important question such as the flag.

Honourable senators, may I say just a word with regard to my old friend Senator Horner, who died recently. As I approached Parliament Hill yesterday morning I saw the flag flying at half mast, bearing a message from the Hill that a member of Parliament was dead.

Senator Horner was a unique and good man, and a good senator. He was a warm-hearted man who loved his friends. He was always close to the grass-roots, and that is where the real strength of our country is to be found. I wish to take this opportunity to extend to his widow and his distinguished family the heartfelt sympathy of my wife and myself. We will miss him here, but to them comes the real sorrow.

Now I turn to the flag. In the House of Commons last week a distinguished member said this:

My people came to Canada 150 years ago. The German people made their contribution to this country in the area of Nova Scotia around what is now Lunenburg when they came there in 1750. In western Ontario and eastern Ontario many of the United Empire Loyalists were of German... origin.

Well, I come from Lunenburg. I was born there. I think it is a progressive town. We are told it is a town with character, and it has the atmosphere of the old and the new. We think the people there are progressive, and we think they are excellent Canadian citizens.

When Louis Prince of Lunenburg became King George of England, he and his successors, other Georges, wanted to have Nova Scotia as a common denominator of the kind of citizens that were in this country. So he went to his camp followers and friends in Germany and arranged that they should come to Nova Scotia. They came to Halifax in 1749—900 of them at that time, and the next year 1,000 more came. Then it was decided to move them down the shore to Lunenburg, and 1,500 went to Lunenburg. About 400 stayed in Halifax.

My mother, who was German, comes of that stock; her ancestors were among the German settlers who came in 1753. My father was a Scot from Prince Edward Island. So we have mixed blood too, and we can share with others in that we are citizens of Canada largely because our people have been here for a long time, and a divided ancestry makes it most interesting.

Now, I have said my mother was of German stock; and I would add that she had nine children, four of them sons. There was mention today of allegiance to the Queen. I should say that of the four sons every one was in military service. My youngest brother