

Flags of Canada

In other words, an effort must be made, not only by youngsters but by older people to have a better understanding of this question.

Last year, I said that that question had to be discussed with calm and consistency, somewhat like the hon. member for Matapeia-Matane (Mr. Belzile) did this afternoon. Evidently, he managed occasionally to blame the previous prime minister. But, in politics, one must expect to be criticized occasionally.

We must admit that this is a question that must be discussed with moderation in order that the feelings of one and all may be properly understood.

Some people still believe that there should be room in the Canadian flag for the British coat of arms; others believe that we should add the fleur-de-lis.

It is only through a thorough study of the arguments put forward that we shall no doubt find the design of a really distinctive flag, which will be the very proof of our mutual understanding.

Not so long ago, the hon. member for Lincoln (Mr. Smith) introduced a bill in this house. Although it was never disposed of, and since I do not want to be out of order, Mr. Speaker, I would ask your permission to refer to it. The measure was rejected due, perhaps, to certain pressures although a resolution was passed by the city council of St. Catharines.

I have here, Mr. Speaker, a copy of the resolution adopted by the municipal council of that city. I do not find anything in that resolution that bears any resemblance to the wording of the bill introduced by the hon. member for Lincoln.

That resolution calls for a distinctive flag for Canada.

With unanimous consent of the house, I should like to put that resolution on record. (Text):

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member who has the floor suggests that a copy of a resolution passed by the city council of St. Catharines be made an appendix to today's *Hansard*. Has the hon. member leave of the house to do so?

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Hodgson: This will interfere with the bill of the hon. member for Lincoln (Mr. Smith).

Mr. Smith (Lincoln): Mr. Speaker, that resolution is already recorded in *Hansard*. I read it myself.

Mr. Speaker: There does not seem to be unanimous consent to the hon. member's proposal.

Mr. Habel: Then, Mr. Speaker, in all fairness to two municipal councils in my riding

[Mr. Habel.]

which have supported the same resolution I will have to read the resolution. The council of the town of Cochrane has accepted this resolution without reservation and has written me a letter asking me to support the demand for a distinctive flag. The council of the town of Hearst has also endorsed the same resolution. Because of the fact that members on the government side refuse to allow the resolution to be embodied in *Hansard* I will read part of it. It is in these words:

That whereas this council is aware that on the fifth day of September, 1945, the federal government by its order in council number P.C. 5888 declared it appropriate to fly the Canadian red ensign within and without Canada, wherever place or occasion may make it desirable to fly a distinctive Canadian flag...

Now therefore be it resolved that the federal government and the Right Hon. the Prime Minister of Canada be and they are hereby required to amend order in council P.C. 5888 or to pass a new order in council to provide forthwith for the establishment of a distinctive Canadian flag.

These two municipal councils in my riding support the resolution passed by the city council of St. Catharines and this goes to show that the resolution is absolutely in accordance with the amendment we have moved today.

(Translation):

Mr. Speaker, the matter of a flag arouses great interest among Canadians, more particularly among our young people. It seems that time ripens too slowly for some older people, or that we take too long to come to a final decision. Just the same we have to admit that the idea has made some headway, and that the moment will soon come when we shall have to take a decision.

To the hon. member for Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm who, a moment ago, indulged in cynical remarks regarding certain statements or newspapers' reports about the hon. member for Laurier (Mr. Chevrier), the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillington (Mr. Pickersgill), the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Pearson), and who said that the hon. member for Laurier seemed to change his mind as he changed provinces, I would remind him that it is strange that a native of the province of Quebec, as I am myself, should say such things, because I was elected to the Ontario legislature not only by French Canadians but also by English-speaking citizens and people of other origins. And this happened only six years after my arrival in that province, which is now my province of adoption. In my opinion, this means that the province of Ontario—which some people like to call the imperialistic province—accept natives of Quebec province to the point of making them their provincial members. I am therefore amazed that Conservative members from Quebec