

no reason in the world why, in the middle of a legislative program, which has been outlined to us, the Prime Minister should throw in this flag issue without any authority or mandate. Having made this an issue, when we asked that the Canadian people be given a chance to express an opinion, that request was not granted. Regardless of the merits of a referendum, as has been so well emphasized elsewhere on other occasions, no one can tell me that if the Canadian people are consulted and allowed to make a decision on an issue of this kind, it is going to disrupt national unity. Certainly a decision made by a group of men sitting on the treasury benches, accepted by the majority of a house of minorities, is not the way to achieve national unity. One does not achieve national unity by forcing something such as a flag on the Canadian public. These are harsh words, honourable senators, and it is the first time you have heard me express them in this house, but I speak from my heart. I despise partisan politics, I have no use for it, and particularly with an issue such as this, which affects so many families and their loved ones. It should be above the rancour of political partisanship.

All legislation is founded upon the principle of mutual concession. Let him who elevates himself above humanity, above its weaknesses, its infirmities, its wants, its necessities, say, if he pleases, "I will never compromise," but let no one who is not above the frailties of our common nature disdain compromise.

I wonder how many of you read the enlightening article by Bruce West entitled "The Tale of Two Cities," in which he described the scene of the downfall of Nikita Krushchev and the birthday celebration of the greatest statesman of the twentieth century, Sir Winston Churchill. In his concluding remarks he stated:

Here, then on this Sunday evening, was a tale of two cities and two men and two ways of life. Each tale was interesting enough in itself, but side by side they contained a profound moral that we might well remember in a day when old values are being weighed and old standards so severely questioned.

In closing, honourable senators, I wish to quote from a poem by a friend of mine, a squadron leader in the Royal Canadian Air Force, who was killed at Singapore:

So long, my Canada! You may not hear again

From one to whom your very name is dear . . .

And so this message I must send you ere
The yellow tide of death that creeps so
near

Flows over yet another of your sons
Whose priceless freedom is your greatest
dower . . .

To help preserve this birthright for man-
kind,

I dedicate my life to its last hour . . .

I go to join my comrades of Dunkirk,
Narvik, Tobruk, Hong Kong, and many
more

Whose names in tears are written on
your heart

From sunlit West to grey Atlantic
shore . . .

Gladly give I, as they have given, all

One man can give to pay the debt I owe

To you, my Canada, who, freedom-blest,
This blessing on your children still
bestow . . .

The sands are running out . . . the yellow
pack

In full and snarling cry is closing in! . . .

So little time is left in which to play

My humble part . . . but, if my death
should win

One single foothold for the steps of those,
My brother, who—to save your freedom
dear—

Must follow me, with gladness I shall go
To meet my Maker . . . and without a fear.

At least I can speak today for him and
others like him.

My epitaph to him—

He died, this son of Canada, for you, and
me

To help preserve your towns from raining
hell—

Your wives from rape—your daughters
from the lust

Of beasts—your shores from shot and
shell . . .

He died for lack of guns—of tanks—of
planes—

Of ships—of all that wins in modern
war . . .

All he had left was courage!

To all my honourable colleagues in this
revered and venerable chamber, I say let this
Senate, this most essential branch of Parlia-
ment, rise in all its majesty and glory and
give this legislation a sober second thought.
Let Canada speak, let the whole of Cana-
dians speak and I, for one, and I am sure
the vast majority, when that verdict is
rendered, will accept it in the full and loyally
follow. Therefore, in this vein of thought and
my own heartfelt reasoning, I support the
amendment to the resolution and I thank you
for listening to me.