

Canadian Commonwealth Flag

The hon. member for Lotbinière (Mr. Choquette) said a moment ago that we are, in fact, accepting a second flag. Well, Mr. Speaker, I wish to say at this point that there is the word "necessarily", if the association decides on a flag that will represent the commonwealth of nations.

Mr. Speaker, may I call it six o'clock.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I must interrupt the hon. member—

[Text]

It being six o'clock I do now leave the chair.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The house resumed at 8 p.m.

[Translation]

Mr. Gauthier: Mr. Speaker, to resume my remarks which were interrupted at six o'clock I was saying that the hon. member for Lotbinière claimed in his speech that we were accepting a second flag in principle. Quite the contrary. We would accept the emblem to be chosen by the whole commonwealth of nations, if ever the prime ministers concerned were so to decide, just as we accept the use of NATO emblems and those of other organizations. Still, we do so in principle only, and not under a federal act, for the day we decide to withdraw from NATO, from the commonwealth or any other international group, we no longer have any use for those emblems.

This does not mean that we recognize two Canadian flags, one for week days and the other for Sundays. We want one flag and one flag only.

The hon. member for Edmonton West (Mr. Lambert) said that our amendment is illogical. I wonder in what books he learned his definition of logic.

If it is illogical to let the real authorities of the commonwealth select the emblem which should represent that association, I do not understand anything about logic.

Everybody will agree that what we are asking for in our amendment is merely common sense. Therefore, I urge all members of each party to support the amendment proposed by this group.

Thus, we would not encroach on anybody's authority. We would not bring about any conflict, any misunderstanding and above all, any unfortunate complication. We would not

dictate anything to anybody and we would leave full and complete freedom of action to all member countries. We are only expressing one of our dearest wishes, that is to obtain eventually an emblem for the commonwealth, just like there is one for the United Nations and NATO, an emblem which we could fly during meetings of the commonwealth of nations.

Mr. Speaker, I made those remarks so that the purpose of our amendment may be understood, and I hope that every member will make it his duty to support it.

Mr. Rémi Paul (Berthier-Maskinongé-Delaudière): Mr. Speaker, as I did not have the opportunity to take part in the debate following the presentation of the sixth report, I now want to congratulate all those members who, for six weeks, studied the matter of choosing a distinctive national flag, which was adopted last Monday evening.

The committee also submitted a report which has been discussed in this house since last Tuesday.

Mr. Speaker, it is interesting to note that there is increasing unity on the distinctive national flag chosen by the majority in the house last Monday, and we must now, in accordance with the recommendation of the seventh report of the committee, choose a second flag.

I listened with great interest to the hon. member for Victoria-Carleton (Mr. Fleming), who declared after studying the seventh report of the committee, that nine members had voted for its adoption while five members had voted against.

And, by chance, it so happens that the five members who seemed to take a logical course in the work to be done by this committee were Conservative members who, oppose, just like their party, the adoption of a second flag.

It is alleged as a pretext in the committee report that we have to adopt a second flag as a sign of our membership in the commonwealth of united nations and of our allegiance to the British crown. It is permissible to wonder whether, since Canada adhered to the commonwealth, that is since 1945, it has expressed its allegiance to the British crown, because we did not have the union jack to proclaim, as suggested in the report, our membership in the commonwealth of nations and our allegiance to the British crown.

We wonder where "Joe" is in this seventh report. And speaking of "Joe", we might ask whether it is not the premier of Newfoundland who influenced the federal members of