

*Canada Elections Act*

of Labour". A horizontal bar on the top of the "L" forms the facsimile of the letter "T", for "travail". I am unable to determine what is implied by the design of the "C" therein. It looks to me as if there are three heads thereon. Perhaps it is a heraldic interpretation of the troika. But this kind of action should not be taken by ministers unless there has first been approval by the cabinet and after discussion by Parliament. These things happen again and again. They are dividing our country unnecessarily.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Such changes are driving people to the belief that we cannot establish unity in Canada. Unity is not a one-way street. We who are of a racial origin other than French have gone a long way to bring about unity in Canada. We have given up some of those things that we regarded as sacred to our citizenship—and I speak as one of mixed origin.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Prud'homme:** Mr. Chairman, on a question of privilege.

[*English*]

I should like to point out to my right hon. friend, and this is a question of privilege, that if I were sure that what I am doing this morning is dividing this country I would refuse to associate myself with such an amendment. I am trying to work in this country and this House to unite people and not disunite them. I repeat again to my right hon. friend, if I were sure that this kind of amendment would divide the people of this country I would refuse to associate myself with it. I think he knows that quite well, because I have spoken to him quite often privately. I do not agree with him when he asserts that in trying to build a better Canada for today and tomorrow we are forgetting our past. We have a great deal of respect for the Canada of yesterday and we believe in traditions in this country.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** I always respect the integrity of the hon. gentleman. He says that if he were sure the amendment would divide Canada he would not support it. He ought to go farther than that and say that if there is any doubt about it he will not support it, on the basis of his beliefs throughout the years.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** How is it possible to establish certainty? Socrates tried; other philosophers ever since have tried and have found it impossible. I am placing my views before this chamber in a dispassionate way.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** That is the Liberal attitude. They say, "Oh, oh." They alone have custody of sincerity. They alone are trying to build this country. It is apparent from their interruptions that they think that those who do not agree with the course being taken are not entitled to be heard.

Sir, I mentioned removal of the coat of arms; on the substitution there are three little images that might possibly represent a troika. Who knows whether they might not be the Secretary of State, the Prime Minister and the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion? I do not know, but I think there ought to be identification. It is only fair that those who have come into the government from other parties and who have been raised to dominant positions in the government party should make it clear whether the next step is the creation of a new order, a new triumvirate, in this country.

Speaking seriously, I hope that the government will not press forward with such actions. I cannot be optimistic about it because it is apparent that, notwithstanding the doubts of those who believe in a united Canada, these people will push through what they want regardless of the divisions that are being caused.

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** Mr. Chairman, when the right hon. member for Prince Albert rose to speak he acknowledged that he had not been present at prior proceedings.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** I did not say that at all. I said I did not know what was coming up today.

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** I was trying to assist the right hon. gentleman. If he had followed this debate he would know very well that this amendment was not brought forward by the government and that I specifically said that the government took no position on it. The position which the government has taken is the position taken in the bill and the position taken by the standing committee, I believe unanimously. Certainly the hon. member for Hillsborough supported the idea that a change of the kind set out on page 24 of the bill should be made. In fact, I refer the