

when the flag now flying over these parliament buildings is run down and another takes its place, that event will cause me, to say the least, considerable sorrow and heart-ache; and I know it is going to have that effect on many, many thousands of people across Canada.

Some say the debate has been too long; and indeed, it has been a long debate. But there have been many excellent speeches. Time has been taken which the people say could better have been used for other purposes. However, I would point out to my honourable friend the fact that it was the Prime Minister and the Government of this country who introduced this debate, and the Prime Minister was the only person who could have stopped the debate and gone on with the rest of the business of this country.

Senator McCutcheon yesterday mentioned this matter and dealt with some of the items that could have been attended to. Redistribution, of course, has been attended to and it is an important matter. There is the question of the Canada Pension Plan; that has been off again and on again, as the Irishman says, and I do not know when it will be brought forward again. Time should have been taken with the provinces to deal with these very important matters instead of having this flag debate. Then, there is the labour code to be considered, a very important subject. This too could have been attended to by this Parliament, instead of spending weeks debating the flag issue. There is also the recapitalization of the C.N.R. I could go on and on and mention many such matters which should have been attended to by this Government instead of bringing on this flag issue which the people did not want.

I have no wish to be repetitious, but in other speeches it was mentioned that this was the first opportunity the Senate had to express its views. We have been told this was an election issue. I know what went on in the last federal election in this country, and I do not think the matter of the flag was mentioned on more than three or four platforms across the country. The people knew nothing about it. We did not know there was going to be a flag issue before this Parliament. I say there is no mandate from the people of Canada for a flag. It was never mentioned in the Speech from the Throne. The first we heard of it, as has been said so often, was when the Prime Minister himself introduced the three maple leaves design as a flag.

When the matter had been discussed for many days in the House of Commons, pressure was brought to bear to set up a committee. This is something which should have been done at the very beginning. A joint committee of the Senate and House of Commons should have been set up at the very outset. But after

the matter had been debated for many weeks and after all members had taken firm stands on the matter then, and not until then, was a committee set up. In my view that was a poor time to appoint a committee, after members had already made up their minds. We know the result; there was a change in the recommendation for a flag—one maple leaf instead of three, and only that.

Now, honourable senators, I want to compare the procedure used in introducing the flag in this Parliament in 1964 to that used in the twentieth Parliament in 1945 and 1946. At that time it was mentioned in the Speech from the Throne, and I would like to read to this house what was said on that occasion for those honourable members who have not already read it themselves. I am sure many senators have gone back and read in *Hansard* the Speech from the Throne at the opening of the first session of the twentieth Parliament. We all know this speech is prepared by the Prime Minister and the cabinet and is read by the Governor General. At that time the words of the then Prime Minister were as follows:

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

My ministers believe that the position attained by our country among the nations of the world makes it desirable that Canada, like the other nations of the British Commonwealth, should possess a distinctive national flag. You will be asked to appoint a select committee of members of both Houses of Parliament to consider a suitable design for a Canadian flag.

The Government has directed that, pending approval by Parliament of a particular design, the Canadian Red Ensign which was the flag carried into battle by the Canadian army—

And this was recognized by the Government at that time.

—and which was flown from the Peace Tower on V-E Day and V-J Day as a tribute to the valour of our armed forces and to Canada's achievements in war, may be displayed wherever place or occasion makes it desirable to fly a distinctive Canadian flag.

There the Government of the day considered the ensign a distinctive Canadian flag. They put it in their Speech from the Throne, and the Governor General read it. Nevertheless, the other day I listened to my very good friend, Senator Crerar—a man for whom I have great admiration, as has everyone in this chamber, because he is one of the great men in Canadian parliamentary life—and I