

Canadian Flag

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Bow River (Mr. Woolliams) has the floor.

Mr. Woolliams: I hear the Liberals yelling "Question", and so are those in the splinter parties, because we know they are working together at the present time; but as long as I have a voice in my body I will express the view of the people I represent. If hon. members opposite think that by asking simple, childish questions they are influencing anybody in the press tonight, they are not. As far as I am concerned they can get up and make their own speeches. I know that some of them are frightened to talk about a plebiscite. I know that the members from Ontario and the maritimes are more frightened of this issue than any which have faced this country for a long time. But it will never be said of this side of the house that the Conservatives do not fight. I am ready to fight as far as this issue is concerned, and I will not be silenced.

My hon. friend asked me a question and I shall ask him a question and answer it in my own way.

Mr. Dupuis: I can answer it too.

Mr. Woolliams: You can make your own speech later and I shall be most interested to hear it. My question is this: Will the vote of parliament speak for the people? My answer is simple. I say tonight that if I sat down and no other member spoke on this issue, whatever the result in this parliament the people of Canada have not spoken. Because of the discipline in their party and the discipline of their whip to get them to vote in a certain way, hon. members opposite are voting against their own constituents in order to keep the Liberal party together.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member should address the Chair.

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Speaker, because I turn away for a moment to speak to my hon. friends does not mean I have forgotten that you are there, believe me. Let me ask this question again: Will the vote of parliament speak for the people? I say no. There are many Canadians today who want to retain the red ensign.

Mr. Choquette: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. On different occasions I have watched the Red Skelton show. Tonight I am seeing the best performance he has ever done.

[Mr. Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria).]

Mr. Woolliams: Let me say this. I would rather have the dignity of Red Skelton than the hoodlumism of the hon. member for Lotbinière (Mr. Choquette). I have watched him in his seat in this House of Commons and I say he does not do his constituents justice. He is neither dignified nor judicious in his remarks.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. The hon. member for Lotbinière (Mr. Choquette) raised a question of privilege which was obviously unacceptable to the Chair. I suggest to the hon. member that he should not retaliate.

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that one should probably turn the other cheek but when an hon. member in the house will not stand to sing "God Save the Queen" I say he is not judicious and that he is not dignified.

Mr. Winkler: He is not a Canadian.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Choquette: Mr. Speaker, I feel I am justified in rising on a question of privilege.

I was just joking earlier and making fun of the hon. member who was ridiculous. Everybody thought he was ridiculous and was laughing at him.

Now, he has just made a rather unpleasant and spiteful remark. He said that I did not have the courage to rise when the "God Save the Queen" was sung. I think he is referring to the hon. member for Quebec West (Mr. Plourde) who remained seated when the "God Save the Queen" was sung.

Mr. Speaker, when any national anthem is sung, one must be courteous enough to rise. This is what I would have done had I been here on that occasion, even though I hope "O Canada" will officially become our national anthem.

Mr. Plourde: Mr. Speaker, on the point of order—

[*Text*]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. Would the hon. member for Quebec West (Mr. Plourde) kindly resume his seat. The hon. member has raised another question of privilege which is perhaps a little more justifiable than his first one. Although I do not think there is a real question of privilege involved perhaps the hon. member was justified to make the correction he did to the assertion made by the hon. member for Bow River. But it seems to me that we are not