

I lay this before you, honourable senators. I said I was proud to hear such excellent speeches, but tonight I am also disappointed. This is supposed to be the place where legislation is given sober, second thought. What do I find? I find that the senators on that side of the house, as well as some on this side, are making this a political issue in the Senate. This is disgusting, to my way of thinking. We should not allow the flag question to be brought into this house and to be handled here as a political issue. In my opinion it is discreditable to this honourable chamber that this should happen, and I ask you all, honourable senators, to consider what you should do with this amendment of the honourable Senator O'Leary. Is it not reasonable? Is he not asking you to do exactly what you are appointed to do, namely, to give it a little more time and to think it over? I ask you to think it over so that the people will have more respect for us.

I do not care what the percentage is for any particular flag, but I do think it would be wise of us to discard political thinking on this and vote according to our consciences, to lay before the people of Canada a sample of distinctive designs, one of which they would choose as a flag for Canada.

Honourable senators, I do not wish to delay you unduly, but today I received this telegram from Burin, where I was born. It is from the Burin branch of the Royal Canadian Legion, and reads as follows:

Burin Branch Royal Canadian Legion expects you to use your good office to protest against the new flag.

It is signed by Gordon Cheeseman, President. I have numerous other telegrams like that from branches of the Royal Canadian Legion.

I am not protesting against the new flag, but I am arguing for giving our people in the ten provinces of Canada some time in which to think it over. Let them look at it, and let them decide.

It is my personal opinion that we should certainly retain in our flag some symbol of the two founding nations, Great Britain and France. There is nothing of that nature in this red maple leaf which, as Tennyson said, will turn to blood in the fall. I am pleading with you, honourable senators, not to vote down this amendment; do not let it be a political issue with you. We are here to give this resolution a second thought and to take a good look at it, and we should support the amendment moved by Senator O'Leary (Carleton). Let our people make the decision. If Senator O'Leary's amendment is defeated, then we shall not be giving them a chance of making a decision. We shall be saying to

them: "Look, this is your flag. This is what you have got to fly over your store or place of business."

Honourable senators, wherever you look across Canada you see the maple leaf. You see it on cans and packages. You will not find the Union Jack on that sort of thing in Great Britain, and neither will you find the fleur-de-lis being used commercially in France. Yet in Canada you see the maple leaf on all sorts of goods that are sold to the people. It would be very strange indeed if one went to England and found the Union Jack on a can of beans. Something has to be done if we are to have the red maple leaf on our flag. There will have to be legislation prohibiting its use in advertising.

It is not my intention to delay this issue. I think Senator O'Leary's amendment is something that should be considered seriously, and not politically. Our people should decide upon the flag they want. In Canada there are people from almost every country in the world, and they are not being given a chance to choose their flag. They are being told: "This is your flag." It is not right for us as senators to allow this matter to go through in that way.

I am not speaking in a political sense. I do not mind what sort of flag we eventually adopt, but I would like to see whatever flag is adopted contain some device emblematic of the founding nations, France and Great Britain. However, if whatever flag is adopted is not the choice of the people of Canada, then it is not going to receive the love and the preparedness to die for it, which any flag deserves.

Our comrades gave their lives for their flag. We buried them in France and around the world because they fought for it and what it represented—justice, peace, honour and security. Let us not sever our connection with the people from whom we came. Honourable senators, I am pleading with you; do not let this be a political vote. The honour of the Senate is in your hands during the next 24 hours. Let us stand by that honour.

**Hon. A. K. Hugessen:** Honourable senators, I can appreciate that this is to some extent an emotional issue. We have had an example of that in the speech we have just heard from our honourable friend Senator Hollett. In fact, I am afraid he made use of some expressions which I think upon sober, second thought he will be sorry he used, because he told us the proceedings in this Senate were disgusting and discreditable. I was going to commence my remarks this evening by saying that during the whole of my 27 years of experience in this house I have never known of a debate that has been conducted on a higher plane than this.