

National Centennial Act

spoken will come back into this house and say this was a mistake—

Mr. Gregoire: On a question of privilege, Mr. Chairman—

Mr. Winkler:—that he is repentant, I would be the first to accept that—

Mr. Gregoire: On a question of privilege—

Mr. Winkler: Mr. Chairman, I have the floor.

Mr. Gregoire: On a question of privilege, Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member wishes to quote what somebody has said, he should quote what was said and not what is reported in a newspaper. The newspaper report might be mistaken, and it is because of such mistakes that we have the present situation. On my question of privilege, Mr. Chairman, I would like the words of the hon. member cited as they were said, and not as they have been reported in the newspapers, because this leads to mistakes being made.

The Chairman: Order. I am wondering whether we are not getting some distance away from the subject matter of the resolution which is before the committee. Certainly the comments that were just made by the hon. member for Grey-Bruce are of interest to the committee, but they seem to be getting away from the resolution that is before us. Perhaps the hon. member would take that into consideration.

Mr. Winkler: I thank you, Mr. Chairman, and will certainly try to follow your direction. But I cannot deviate from the fact that these things are important to this country. These are important questions when we are considering the celebration of the 100th birthday of confederation in 1967. I quoted directly from the speech of the hon. member, the report of which will be found in the *Star Weekly* of December 15, 1962.

Mr. Langlois: Was that a written speech?

Mr. Winkler: When I was dealing with this particular question, Mr. Chairman, I did not want to be misunderstood. I was dealing with this point because of the area from which I come, where the people are generally of German origin. We do not ask to be recognized as a separate group. There is not an ounce of separatism in our souls. We want to be recognized as Canadians. We want only to be known for the contribution we make to Canada and all Canadians.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Winkler: As I look forward to 1967 and the celebration of the 100th anniversary of confederation I would invite my colleagues to consider what I am saying, because then

I think our centennial will be celebrated in a suitable manner. I will reiterate what I said earlier. Having regard to the terms of confederation as laid down in the British North America Act and the rights available to every citizen of Canada to be used for the betterment of Canadians as a whole, if any situation arises where these rights are not being adhered to I will certainly stand up with any fellow citizen of Canada and fight for those rights. Before I take my seat I might ask the President of the Privy Council once again to be so good as to put on the record the names of the people who will attend the conference in this regard. I am sure every member of the house will appreciate it if he will do so.

Mr. Nesbitt: Mr. Chairman, in looking at the resolution, which is in the name of the Prime Minister, one of the things that I would very much hope the centennial commission, as it is now to be called would do would be to recommend to the Prime Minister a design for a distinctive Canadian flag, because certainly this is one of the most important things that the people of Canada will expect to have when our 100th birthday takes place. As a matter of fact, if I heard the Prime Minister correctly he said in the house recently that he would recommend a flag to parliament within two years and that the design of the flag would be debated by the house.

I would hope that the centennial commission would hear representations and would be able to make recommendations to the Prime Minister in this respect. All of us who have been members of the house for a number of years and, indeed, those with a shorter length of service, have received over the years many views on this subject, which is one of great interest to most Canadians. I know that in the more than 10 years I have been here I have collected a very large file with designs for a proposed Canadian flag. These designs are varied in nature, size, shape and colour. A great many of them are extremely abstract and are composed of red and green triangles, circles, rectangles and the like. I suspect that in some cases they are so subjective that they mean nothing to anybody except the designer. I am reinforced in this view, inasmuch as most of these odd looking designs are usually accompanied by a very careful explanation of what each triangle, circle, rectangle or square means.

Many representations have been made concerning a flag. There is one group in the country that feels that a distinctive Canadian flag—I am sure all of us agree our flag should be a distinctive one—should contain some symbols which—