

*Canadian Flag*

made or any remarks I am about to make. As I have said, I feel there are a number of reasons for a plebiscite, and I am referring to those reasons and nothing else. I mentioned that the people of Canada are only now finding out about the decision of the flag committee. I mentioned the fact that I did not believe there was a mandate. I mentioned the fact that there was confusion and indecision arising out of the government's proposal, namely, the Pearson flag, and I said finally that to my mind there was not sufficient unanimity in the decision of the flag committee for us to accept it. The main motion was for concurrence in the sixth report of the flag committee, but I have had the opportunity—

[Translation]

**Mr. Grégoire:** There are only nine Conservatives in the house now, because another one has just left.

[Text]

**Mr. Herridge:** Don't take any notice of that.

**Mr. Pugh:** Mr. Speaker, I am wondering whether it would not be better to use the word "duck" in reference to that hon. member, than the word that has been used.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Pugh:** I have put forward these four points and, when I was so rudely interrupted again, I was about to say that since the committee made its report on the flag I have had the opportunity of visiting my constituency. What I am putting forward today represents the very things that have been said to me and impressed upon me by my constituents. They tell me that for the reasons I have been putting forward and which I intend to keep on putting forward they feel they have a right to have the final vote themselves on the flag question by way of a plebiscite. I am not quite sure whether they want a plebiscite at the present time or at the next general election but it would save expense if it were held at the next general election and that might well be the time to have it.

Because of the interruptions, Mr. Speaker, I hope you will not mind while I pause for station announcements and to look over my notes. I said that confusion had come out of the flag committee and I mean just that. A great deal of the confusion was caused by the good public relations story written by the hon. member for Vancouver Quadra (Mr. Deachman) which was blatantly published

right across Canada prior to the committee report being presented to the house.

**Mr. Grégoire:** Now there are eight Conservatives here.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order. Could we have order, please.

**Mr. Grégoire:** That is terrible.

**Mr. Pugh:** Mr. Speaker, do we have to listen to that? I ask you to put that man out of the chamber so that I may continue my speech uninterrupted by him every five seconds. You must do it and I am asking you to do it.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** I can assure the hon. member that the Chair is listening with great interest to what he is saying. I am sure he will realize it is impossible for the Chair to make sure there is 100 per cent attention to everything that is said at all times. I assure the hon. member that I will protect him and protect his right to speak without interruption, if in the opinion of the Chair there is a disturbance that prevents hon. members who want to listen to him from having the opportunity and the advantage of hearing what he has to say.

**Mr. Pugh:** May I ask one more thing, Mr. Speaker. I have been watching the clock fairly carefully, but in view of the numerous interruptions and the speeches which have been interpolated into mine, I wonder whether you would advise me by what time my speech has to be concluded.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** This is not a proper question to the Chair. The hon. member has 40 minutes to speak and he will be allowed 40 minutes.

**Mr. Pugh:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was referring to the confusion which has arisen over this matter and I mean just that. A great deal of that confusion has been generated by the pre-leaking or pre-publication of a story by a member of the committee which was grossly unfair and aroused quite a bit of indignation.

When I was in my constituency I was questioned about the laughter that went on in the committee. The people of Canada are worried about the flag that has been produced by this committee, a flag with laughter attached to it, a flag with a tactical advantage attached to it. I have only to refer to newspaper reports at the time. "Strategy is Big Blunder", says one Liberal member of the flag committee. Another one says, "Tac-