

*Canadian Flag*

**Mr. Smallwood:** A lot of us fought under it, which is more than you guys did.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order please. I would like to point out to all hon. members, including those sitting close to the hon. member who has the floor, that he should be allowed to continue his remarks uninterrupted.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Grégoire:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

Do you not think that there are many repetitions? To my knowledge, it has been repeated at least 50 times that the Minister without Portfolio (Mr. Dupuis) sold stickers, and at least 200 times that, formerly, there were three maple leaves and now there is only one. If they have nothing new to say, it seems to me you should call them to order and demand that they put an end to these repetitions which are against the rules.

[*Text*]

**Mr. Horner (Jasper-Edson):** This is the same hon. gentleman who stood up in his place and said, "Unless our little party is recognized we will filibuster for 100 days."

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Grégoire:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege.

I did not say that; the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Diefenbaker) did, and said at that time: I shall fight to the death to ensure that their rights are not recognized. Unfortunately, he did not die and our rights have been recognized.

[*Text*]

**Mr. Horner (Jasper-Edson):** I see my hon. friends are a little touchy on that subject. They are a little touchy on the question of whether or not they should break away from that great and noble party we know so well in Alberta, which the leader of the Créditistes said set them back 10 years. He said other things as well. He said that Social Credit nationally was a fizzle and they should have a new party. My hon. friend keeps talking. He likes to interrupt but he does not like being interrupted.

**Mr. Grégoire:** You did not dare to interrupt me yesterday.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order. The hon. member for Jasper-Edson (Mr. Horner) has the floor and I again ask hon. members not to interrupt him.

**Mr. Horner (Jasper-Edson):** If I may go on, Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Grégoire:** We have heard it about 25 times.

**Mr. Horner (Jasper-Edson):** We have seen this flag debate used as a political football by the Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson). We have seen him trekking around the country with a flag kit and new words to "O' Canada" when he should have been here looking after his ministers. But we have not seen any major legislation put before us. We have not seen any major policy changes.

**An hon. Member:** You have not been here.

**Mr. Horner (Jasper-Edson):** I have been getting some furniture ready.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Horner (Jasper-Edson):** We have seen a government which has wallowed through 18 months of administration like a bull moose in some of the swamps in Jasper-Edson, not making any decision except for this one petulant decision that we must debate this flag issue. This is the essence of the argument. Should we as a country be content to follow the lead of a minority government which has not proven itself, which has not done anything at all for the nation? Should we accept its word on the subject of a national symbol, or should we ask the people? That is the essence of the argument. We say—

**Mr. Grégoire:** Let's vote.

**Mr. Horner (Jasper-Edson):** Ah, the parrots in the corner are getting lively again. They say "Let's vote". I say, let the people vote on it. They are the ones who will have to live under this flag for years to come. We do not believe a flag should be changed every time the government changes. After all, if that were the practice we would need to change the flag fairly soon. That would not be a good practice to follow at all. Let us hold a plebiscite at the time of the next election and allow the people to decide what our national symbol should be. Let us put forward three or four distinctive designs, preferably designs which have something to do with our heritage, something to do with the history of Canada. If hon. members opposite do not like the history of Canada, I am sorry for them. We in western Canada come from people who fought for their country by hard work and toil. We come from a pioneering stock. The people of Canada feel very strongly about this question of a plebiscite. They are in favour of deciding it in the way this amend-