

*Canadian Flag*

[Translation]

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

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. Is the hon. member for Villeneuve raising a point of order?

**Mr. Caouette:** Yes, I am raising a point of order.

What has this vote to do with the amendment we are now discussing, namely: Are we in favour of a plebiscite or not?

The hon. member should confine his remarks to that question.

The flag issue, the design of the flag are irrelevant.

The fact that we should have a distinctive national flag is completely irrelevant to the Conservative amendment which calls for the holding of a plebiscite.

Let the hon. member tell us why he is in favour of a plebiscite or against it.

[Text]

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. Perhaps that will satisfy the hon. member but it does not satisfy the Chair. The hon. member at this moment is obviously inviting trouble, and I would ask him to co-operate with the Chair, because the rules of this house apply also to him. Will he please limit his remarks to the subject we have before us.

**Mr. Millar:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Am I allowed to indicate that I appreciate the extension of my time provided by the interjections of hon. members.

Last Monday in the city of London I had the opportunity of speaking to some 160 school children. It was suggested that I speak on the flag issue. I submit that this subject is relevant. I was hesitant in speaking about this matter in view of the controversial nature of the debate now taking place in this house. However, I attempted to give the history of the flag debate up to this time, including an outline of the method of selection used by the flag committee. At that time I had three photographs of the proposed designs. The suggestion was made that these pupils from grades 6, 7 and 8 be given the opportunity of voting on the various designs. I indicated my agreement with this proposal, but unfortunately I had forgotten to bring a copy of the red ensign, which is presently Canada's flag.

**Mr. Caouette:** It is not.

[Mr. Deputy Speaker.]

**Mr. Millar:** However, that was soon remedied.

**An hon. Member:** It is so.

**Mr. Plourde:** It is not.

**Mr. Millar:** I think it is relevant and pertinent that I indicate the results of this vote.

**Some hon. Members:** Order.

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

**Mr. Millar:** The Pearson pennant, which has been rejected, received 55 votes. The composite design received 18 votes. The single maple leaf design, which is the current proposal, received three votes, and the red ensign received 85 votes.

[Translation]

**Mr. Plourde:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak to the point of order.

I notice that for a quarter of an hour the present speaker has been scratching his back against the desk behind him; he falters, the words fail him, he says nothing, he does not know what to say. In that case, he should sit down and let us vote.

[Text]

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. I recognize the hon. member for Greenwood.

**Mr. Brewin:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I suggest to hon. members that even if the member for Middlesex East is being slightly repetitive and irrelevant this is not new, so we might as well be patient and listen to what he has to say without further interruptions.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** The hon. member for Villeneuve has suggested that the remarks of the hon. member who has the floor are not relevant. It is the opinion of the Chair that the argument he advanced is, to a considerable extent, irrelevant to the matter of the amendment.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** It seems to me that the argument he has advanced would indicate that he is proceeding by induction in the same way the hon. member for Lapointe did yesterday.

**Mr. Millar:** I thank you again, Mr. Speaker. In self-defence I should like to say to the member who has just suggested I do not know what I am talking about, that if he will give me an opportunity to do so, I will show him that I do know what has been happening.