

PERAK SHOWS THE FLAG

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National Anthem Not Compulsory

From Our Staff Correspondent

14 OCT 1948 IPOH, Wednesday.

THE Perak Council of State yesterday decided that the flying of foreign flags in the State should be governed by law.

Raja Haji Shahar Shah, introducing the motion, stated that whilst foreign flags were hoisted on several public occasions, proper courtesy to the flag of the land of their adoption was not shown by various races.

Mr. Leong Yew Koh, opposing the motion, said it was his opinion that patriotism could not be created by legislation.

"To attempt to do so will be to fall in line with Fascists.

"Patriotism is not the waving of flags or the shouting of slogans."

The motion was carried 17 to 8.

National Anthem

A similar motion by Raja Shah "that this Council resolves that the Perak National Anthem should be played at the close of all functions where appropriate and the procedure should be governed by law" was defeated.

The Legal Adviser (Mr. M. G. Neal) warned of the repercussions that might follow if the playing of the National Anthem—"Terang Bulan"—was enforced by legislation.

First Sung In 1902

He said that as a first step the anomaly of the Perak National Anthem being played as a cabaret song should be removed.

Raja Shahar Shah said that "Terang Bulan" was first sung in 1902 by Raja Mansur when the then ruling Sultan of Perak went to England to attend the Coronation of King Edward VII.

The King had earlier asked for the Perak National Anthem so that the Sultan could be received with due ceremony. Perak had then no national anthem, but Raja Mansur gave "Terang Bulan" as National Anthem of Perak.

The Mentri Besar (Dato Panglima Haji Abdul Wahab) said that "Terang Bulan" came originally from the Malay bangsawan opera.

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