

To sum this up, honourable senators, I may say that you know very well the importance of the information which you need, and that it is more useful than any lecture or conference. You may find that information in the Library of Parliament, in books that you have to return; or you may find it in books and periodicals which you may obtain from the Printing Bureau and keep for your own benefit.

I turn now to three things contained in the Speech from the Throne. One is:

Legislation respecting the Senate will be introduced.

This concerns the age limit for senators. The Government may, if it wishes, go on with the bill which is before the other house.

At this point I should like to welcome and congratulate the new senators and to remind them that it is a great honour to be a member of the Senate of Canada.

Some years ago one of the older senators from Saskatchewan said that a senator should be, in the first place, a senator. I feel that one of the new senators deserves special congratulations—I refer to the honourable senator from Gormley (Hon. Mr. McCutcheon)—for having resigned his directorates to give his full time to the Privy Council sittings and to his duties as representative of the Prime Minister in this chamber. The first one to occupy that informal position was the late Senator Brunt, who was very much liked by all of us. He was a man who had a high sense of duty, who worked hard and performed a most useful job.

I find that the duties of the Leader of the Government in this chamber are so onerous that it was appropriate for the Prime Minister to name one of us as his personal representative, in order to report to him what is being done by the Senate.

Honourable senators, if I insist on drawing your attention to the reference books which you may get in the Library or from the Printing Bureau, it is because I want you, as senators of Canada, to give the full measure of your talent in this house. If you do so, you will find the work most interesting. This is the loneliest place on earth when one has nothing to do, but if you follow the legislation and keep yourselves informed about it as it comes before us you will be interested, you will be happier, and you will perform a very useful service to this country.

Some speeches are very eloquent. In this respect I congratulate my honourable colleague who spoke before me (Hon. Mrs. Quart). She showed that she possessed that rare gift which Mackenzie King called good will. We have to work in unison in order to accomplish something useful for our fellow-citizens. It

has been done already on many occasions which have not been forgotten, and what was accomplished by the Senate, in spite of threats and menace, was for the good of the country and was recognized as such from coast to coast.

That being said, I wonder what will be the use of the legislation which has been sponsored by the Prime Minister to amend the British North America Act with regard to the age limit for retirement of senators. Some of them are less young than I am, but their minds are clear, they have experience, they have served their country well, and are still doing so in this chamber. The Government does not say much about the matter in the Speech from the Throne. It is mentioned casually, but I hope that the Prime Minister and the Cabinet will reconsider their hasty action about it, and that the bill to amend the British North America Act respecting the Senate will be allowed to lie on the shelf for a long period of time.

I would refer now to the following paragraph in the Speech from the Throne:

To ensure that the redistribution of electoral districts is made objectively and impartially, you will be asked to approve a bill to establish an independent commission to recommend redistribution.

We have enough commissions, and we have a lot of committees which do not sit—there are some also in the House of Commons. It belongs to the House of Commons to determine the boundaries of each constituency. I have confidence in the fairness of the members of Parliament of all parties to be able to come to an understanding concerning the electoral divisions in constituencies, and good work has been done in the past. We have heard enough about the Fathers of Confederation and about the statesmen who were in charge of the affairs of this country before this Government came to power to follow their example in that connection. I still believe that good redistribution can be made by Members of Parliament, without the assistance of any commission. A constituency is like a large family, and no one knows it better than the sitting Member of Parliament for that constituency. Therefore, I hope that that legislation will not go further.

Another matter I have to deal with is Canadian citizenship. If you look at the dictionary, you will see that a citizen is one who owes allegiance to a state in which the sovereign power is retained by the people. For example, in the United States of America the Kennedys are American citizens. A person is a subject when the sovereign power is actually or theoretically retained by a personal