

The fourth initiative is revision of the Constitution. The Government spoke of the fact that it is anxious to revise the Constitution. One of the problems in Canada that makes it difficult to have regional development is the fact that we do not have strong regional representation.

Hon. Mr. Martin: Honourable senators, would you permit me to say that I have to leave the chamber at this time. I think Senator Everett knows the circumstances. I am sorry to miss the remainder of this very important speech, which I think is very creditable as well to the Leader of the Opposition. I hope you will not think me discourteous in leaving the chamber at this time.

Hon. Mr. Everett: Not at all. You are most courteous in informing me of that, sir.

Honourable senators, I was at the point of stating that we do not have good regional representation in Canada. I would like to contrast the Congress of the United States with the Parliament of Canada. The Parliament of Canada is built on parliamentary responsibility. If a person goes to the elected Parliament of Canada he is required, pretty well, to vote under party discipline. If he wants to represent his region he probably does it better or more effectively in caucus than he does in Parliament itself. That is not the case in the Congress of the United States. Because of the division of powers, a man who is elected to Congress of the United States represents his region, and if the administration wants his vote on national issues, it must make sure that it is looking after the requirements of the region that man represents. You may say that is a bad thing, but the Americans have enjoyed a far more pervasive regional development because of that system than we have in Canada. If we are revising the Constitution—I read that the Senate will become an instrument for provincial representation—and if senators, to a certain extent, are appointed by provinces and if the right of veto is reduced to a right of delay, then I think that senators might be far more able to represent their regions and to act in accordance with the requirements of the regions.

The fifth initiative of the Throne Speech was direct influence on the corporate community. It seems to me that something could be done in the area of corporate regionalization. We are seeing in Canada the concentration of the head offices of the major Canadian corporations located in one region, essentially

[Hon. Mr. Everett.]

in two major cities. Nineteen out of 20 of the largest Canadian corporations are concentrated in Ontario and Quebec, primarily Toronto and Montreal. Every day companies are moving from the Prairies to Ontario and Quebec, primarily to Toronto. If you ask them why, they say that they want to be where the action is. When they move they not only move the personnel that go with the head office—a major insurance company employs 1,600 to 2,000 people at its head office—they also move all the supporting services, such as lawyers, chartered accountants, advertising experts, public relations experts and all the consultative experts that are required by a major corporation. They say they can do that because in today's communications they can be concentrated in one city or two cities in Canada, but remain in touch with the outlying branches. You can see this in the demise of the importance of the branch office in areas like the Prairie Provinces, and I am sure in the Maritimes. At one time, because of the lack of communication, the regional manager was an important fellow. He was given a policy and he decided how that policy was to be implemented. Today, he is controlled almost day to day, if not hour by hour, by head office through telex, teletype, phone and data transmission, as well as the corporate jet.

The concentration of the head offices is now in Toronto and Montreal. This is hurting and is creating a tremendous drain of brain power from areas like the Prairie Provinces. If you keep on draining out that brain power you are going to wreck these communities. I say that if communication makes it possible for head offices to concentrate in one or two cities, then why does not communication make the antithesis possible? Why cannot the head offices of these major corporations be spread across Canada? If communication is the answer, then surely it matters less and less every day where they are.

I, therefore, suggest to the Government that not only should there be incentives for the industrialization of depressed areas, there should also be incentives for the regionalization of corporate offices.

Honourable senators, I would like to congratulate the Government on the Throne Speech, because I think it really does make the start on the just society. I second the motion for the adoption of the Throne Speech.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Flynn, debate adjourned.