

2. The initiation and examination of non-contentious legislation;

3. The interposition of such delay as may be needed to secure an adequate expression of popular opinion on contentious bills;

4. Full and free discussion at any time on matters of public policy.

I have taken much time upon matters of special concern to this honourable house because here we are faced with a new set of circumstances. For years many of our colleagues have been engaged in the increasingly onerous work of the Divorce Committee under the leadership of the learned senator from Toronto-Trinity (Hon. Mr. Roebuck). With the appointment of a Commissioner to hear the evidence in divorce, the exhaustive burden of that work has been lifted from the shoulders of honourable senators. In passing, may I again praise the devotion which the chairman and committee members have brought to their task in the interests of the country and to the credit of the Senate through the years.

As a result of all this, we now have the opportunity to review and reactivate the work of many of our Standing Committees. If I may say so, we might with profit, and making adaptations appropriate to Canadian conditions, consider the procedure and some of the work done by committees of the Senate of the United States.

Our Committee on Banking and Commerce, under the distinguished chairmanship of the learned senator from Toronto (Hon. Mr. Hayden), and our Committee on Transport and Communications, sitting under his equally learned and distinguished colleague from Inkerman (Hon. Mr. Hugessen), have been great committees. They have brought lustre to the Senate and to Parliament. Our Committee on Finance, under several outstanding chairmen, and perhaps especially under the venerated senator from Churchill (Hon. Mr. Crerar), have performed with great distinction on many occasions. The demands of time and availability of honourable senators have made it difficult for other committees to do all they would have liked.

Let me illustrate. There is an ever-increasing capacity among our colleagues here in the field of international affairs. Honourable senators have been serving at the United Nations, on delegations to meetings of NATO Parliamentarians, Commonwealth Parliamentarians and other international parliamentary groups. Their reports to the Senate on this work are both informative and impressive. I believe our Standing Committee on External Relations can provide a useful forum to pursue this vital work. The Secretary of State for External Affairs has informed me he would

be delighted to assist this purpose by addressing the committee on occasion. I would like to think that distinguished Canadian experts from outside Parliament in the field of foreign affairs could be invited to appear before the committee and to provide information which would be of value to Parliament and the country.

In the Public Service of Canada, and in the Crown companies, there are men and women who have reputations both national and international. There are distinguished Canadians in many other walks of life who could make a public contribution to projects which I feel certain our Senate committees could initiate. We have 19 standing committees. The Public Health and Welfare Committee can initiate studies in that field. There is always a great interest in the field of trade relations. With the advent of the centenary of Confederation and with the prospect of a World's Fair opening in Canada shortly, it seems to me that our committee on the tourist industry might perform a most useful function by a study in respect of these events. The Natural Resources Committee, with the co-operation of the appropriate department, could engage in productive study. I hope we can mobilize to exploit our opportunities in these various fields. I would encourage committee chairmen when they are appointed to consider initiatives along these lines.

Now if I point to the work of the committees of the Senate of the United States as possible guides in one direction, may I say also we can help ourselves in the work of the chamber itself by looking in another direction. We would do well to know much about the doings and methods of the House of Lords. That body may be low in the scale of power since the Parliament Acts of 1918 and 1948, but it is high in prestige. Indeed, one may be the result of the other. I believe, however, it approaches closely the important role described for second chambers by Viscount Bryce. We have done as well here at times. We can continue along these lines and with profit learn from them.

In his speech in 1922, Senator Dandurand questioned the wisdom of the Leader of the Government party in the Senate, and indeed of any senator, being a member of the cabinet. There is something to be said for that view; and at times it has been said in this chamber. In the meantime, however, we must recognize that conditions in Parliament have changed since 1922. The industrialization of the country, the advent of the age of automation, indeed, too, the development of the welfare state, have been powerful forces to influence the lives of our people. Modern legislation dealing with these problems reaches more and more into areas which were thought to