

one hundred and fifty-six come from Ontario and Quebec, and a hundred and six from all of the rest of Canada. But in this chamber Ontario and Quebec have only forty-eight representatives, and the rest of the country has fifty-four. Yesterday the honourable senator from Halifax-Dartmouth (Hon. Mr. Isnor) discussed the distribution throughout Canada of contracts for war supplies. Who can require the government to give a fair share of war contracts to Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia? This chamber. We can protect minorities which deserve our support. That is why we are here. Majorities can take care of themselves: they constitute governments, they control the public money, and they have the right to vote it.

That is my first point. The Senate reflects the feeling which existed among the delegates when they framed confederation, that, come what may, it should be held together by the reciprocal regard of all parts of the country, by giving those whose representatives in the other house are a minority, equality in this chamber with the two great central provinces. Like my honourable friend from Halifax-Dartmouth, I have every respect for Ontario and Quebec. They are great provinces; their people are able industrialists; they pay a great part of the national taxation; they can do practically everything. But, being a majority, they can always take care of themselves; it is the minority which needs representation and protection.

Let me make one further point. When the Fathers of Confederation decided upon the system of government that should be set up, what were they expecting from this house? I make the statement—and I do not think it can be contradicted, for I have read the record very carefully—that at no time during the nearly eighty-four years that Canada has been a dominion has the Senate acted otherwise than in accordance with the purposes for which it was appointed. Not once!

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Haig: I defy anybody to give a single example of a departure by the Senate from this primary obligation. It may be that occasionally the Senate has acted in matters in which some may think it should not have interfered. But let it be clearly recognized that but for this chamber confederation would never have been achieved at all.

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Haig: Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia would be part of the United States. You may think I am

making an extreme statement, but I have no doubt about its accuracy. Nor, but for this chamber, would the Maritime Provinces have become part of Canada. So I suggest that when outsiders criticize what the Senate does, we should say to them, "All right; that is why the Senate was created," and they will have to admit the truth of what I have said. Then ask them, "With that reason before you, tell me of one instance in which the Senate did not carry out its duty in that regard."

Hon. Mr. Lambert: Does my honourable friend mean to say that the Senate, in its actions over these years, has always acted as the protector of the provincial rights and the minority rights of the country?

Hon. Mr. Haig: I would say, generally, yes. I have been in the Senate now for fifteen years and I have never seen a vote taken in this house which has favoured Ontario and Quebec as against the Maritimes, or any of the other provinces.

Hon. Mr. Lambert: Would it be clearer to say that the votes which have been taken in this house have been in the federal interest?

Hon. Mr. Haig: Yes. That is what I mean. But you asked a definite question. I defy anyone to point to one instance in which the primary principle for which this house was formed has not been carried out to the letter.

I am going to divert for a moment. I do not intend to deal with everything brought out by the leader of the government (Hon. Mr. Robertson) when he introduced his motion, but I should like to refer to his suggestion about establishing a retiring age of seventy-five. Perhaps he is right, but I think honourable senators will probably agree that the most outstanding man in the world today is Winston Churchill.

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Haig: At the age of seventy-six he heads the Conservative party in Great Britain, and he is still going strong. One of the most talked about men in the world today—perhaps one would not call him a great man—is Joseph Stalin, who at the age of seventy-one is leading the communist forces of the world.

Hon. Mr. Dupuis: What about Einstein?

Hon. Mr. Haig: Yes, and I shall refer to a few more great men, Count Zeppelin developed his first lighter-than-air craft when he was in his seventieth year. Thomas Edison, who astonished the world with his inventions, made his greatest discoveries when between the ages of seventy and eighty. Benjamin