

job in his capacity as Leader of the Government in the Senate, and I believe the manner in which he has fulfilled his duties has met with the approval of all members of this house.

I want to take this opportunity to express pleasure at the news carried in the Speech from the Throne of the forthcoming visit to Canada of Her Gracious Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness Prince Philip. It is good news to all Canadians. I am sure the royal couple would be welcome in Canada on any occasion, and they can rest assured of being well received. I am inclined to share the fears expressed in an editorial entitled "Save The Queen" which appeared in the *Montreal Gazette*. The writer feared that perhaps the Queen's itinerary was too difficult, and I must confess that, even though she may have graciously acquiesced to it, there would appear to be danger of taxing her to her capacity. I suppose the matter has been taken into full consideration, and perhaps the itinerary will turn out to be not too taxing after all.

I should like to say something else with respect to the coming visit of Her Majesty.

A few days ago when I was turning over in my mind what I would say in this speech I planned to draw to the attention of the Prime Minister the fact that I had heard a great many recurring rumours that various Canadian citizens had been trying over on their pianos the sound of titles prefixed to their names. I intended saying to the Prime Minister that I hoped he would have the courage not to lift the present ban, for I believe that we in Canada have enough class distinctions, without adding to them. In the meantime, however, the Prime Minister is reported to have taken this view himself. Although I have not seen his exact statement, I take this opportunity of congratulating him on the stand that I would have taken myself. I hope he refuses all importunities that are made to him. He will save himself many headaches in the future if he holds to that course.

I want to refer to one other item in the Speech from the Throne, and then I will direct myself to what I have particularly in mind. It is an item which suggests that legislation will be introduced to authorize appointment of parliamentary secretaries. In principle that would not be materially different from the appointment of parliamentary assistants by the former administration. If it is contemplated to set forth carefully in detail what their duties are to be, I think that is all to the good. Of course, for details, we must wait until the legislation comes down, but I can see no reason to object to the principle. However, honourable senators,

this gives me an occasion to say again something which I said when I held the position of Leader of the Government in the Senate. I believe it is as true today as it was then that if parliamentary assistants or secretaries are to be appointed there is more need for them in the Senate than in the House of Commons. At that time I ventured to suggest that six might be allotted to this house, but I did not get very far with the Government of which I was a member. When the matter comes up again I shall be a little more modest in my proposal, but I shall emphasize once more the needs of the Senate. I will point out that in the other chamber there are 23 ministers of the crown. As I understand it, the legislation will contemplate adding, say, 15 parliamentary secretaries entirely in the House of Commons, so in that house there will be a total of 38 ministers and parliamentary secretaries. It will be the duty of these parliamentary secretaries to supply the members of the House of Commons with information in regard to legislation and to answer questions. At the present time there is in this house neither a minister of the crown nor a parliamentary secretary. The odds are 38 to nothing. I have always been prepared to admit, honourable senators, that the average experience and knowledge of legislation of a senator is materially above that of the average member of the House of Commons. In making this statement I mean no disrespect to members of that house. However, when a situation develops that in parliament there are 38 ministers of the Crown and parliamentary secretaries in the House of Commons for the purpose of serving that branch of Parliament, and none whatever here, it is so unequal that it would be ludicrous, if it were not a serious matter. When I was Government Leader here I said some years ago that I realized the insufficiency of the information furnished to explain legislation and to answer questions to the best advantage, despite the very splendid people I had around me, and that my honourable friend, the Leader of the Opposition, had around him.

I say it is fundamentally wrong that there should be that wide disparity between the two houses of Parliament. It is absolutely wrong. It was wrong in my day when I was Government Leader and it is even more so now, because then there was a member of the Government in the capacity of Government Leader of this house and there is none today. I say to the Prime Minister, for whom I have the greatest respect, and to the Government that it is in the nature of a discourtesy to this house and it should be rectified.