

(Translation):

Convinced of the real value of the legislation we will be called upon to judge, and sustained by two such leaders, it is with confidence that I second the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne.

(Text):

On motion of Hon. Mr. Macdonald, the debate was adjourned.

STANDING COMMITTEES

REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF SELECTION ADOPTED

The Senate proceeded to consideration of the report of the Committee of Selection, which was presented on October 15.

Hon. Mr. Aseltine moved that the report be adopted.

Hon. Jean-Francois Pouliot: Honourable senators, before this report is adopted I must express regret that membership of the committees is the same as it was previously. I say that in the hope that some day the membership of many committees will be reduced.

Now that there are more members on this side of the house I do not agree that in the first place the Leader of the Opposition should be *ex-officio* a member of all the committees. He cannot give enough time to that duty. That procedure dates back to the time when the Leader of the Government and the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate were two gladiators. I refer to the Right Honourable Senator Dandurand and the Right Honourable Senator Meighen. The former thought that he embodied the Liberal party, and I say that with all due respect to his memory because I had great admiration for him. The other gentleman thought that he embodied the whole Conservative party. I know that Senator Dandurand rose at 5 o'clock in the morning, and Senator Meighen was a hard worker too. Those two gentlemen did all the work of the Senate and gave no opportunity to their colleagues to share in that work—I say that in the friendliest manner. So the procedure in the Senate was changed by those gentlemen, the memory of whom still lives. I am very glad to see that in the Senate there is a bust of the late Senator Dandurand, and I hope that in the future we will have also a bust of the Right Honourable Mr. Meighen.

Now, honourable senators, last year I and other members of the Senate asked for some improvement in the Senate. The changes were made by one of these committees. I

appreciate the interest that all the honourable senators have taken in improving the physical appearance of the Senate and in the first place I say that to the honourable gentlemen who are welcome here and say that they are an asset to this chamber. We will have another opportunity to say something good of them. I must tell them that when we older senators were appointed to this group it seemed to us that there was no light in this chamber. The light was so poor that it was impossible to read *Hansard*. It has now been discovered that, by using stronger bulbs, we can have more light, and conditions for reading are better than they were.

In the second place, it was almost impossible to hear anyone speaking in this chamber, because the acoustics were bad. I hope that in the near future some gadgets will be installed that will give us the opportunity of not missing a word of our colleagues who tell us secrets when they deliver speeches here.

Also I remember very well that the honourable Leader of the Government (Hon. Mr. Haig) suggested, when he was Leader of the Opposition, that the house needed better ventilation. In this connection one of my friends in the press gallery came to see me for an interview, and put in my mouth something I never said, namely, that honourable senators were asleep during debates. I never said that in my life: on the contrary, I told him that the air was so thick and so heavy that each senator had to make a super-human effort to stay awake, not because of the dullness of the speeches, for the speeches were very interesting, but because there was next to no ventilation. I congratulate the honourable Leader of the Government upon his suggestion of a better ventilating system.

Further, I recall that a certain honourable senator complained of the dirty condition of the Senate walls. It is to the credit of the committee which was headed by the honourable Leader of the Opposition (Hon. Mr. Macdonald) and so ably seconded by the honourable senator from Ottawa West (Hon. Mr. Connolly) that so great an improvement has been made.

Honourable senators who were appointed this year will have noticed the appearance of this chamber when Her Majesty read the Speech from the Throne. These honourable junior senators, if I may so term our newer colleagues, would have been shocked had they seen the rug which has now been replaced. It was 35 years old and full of holes. It would seem that what finally decided some honourable senators to consent to the purchase of a new rug was the possibility that some members of Her Majesty's