

on a few occasions. I would like to think that this trip enabled him to gather information that will be useful to Canada in assessing the volatile Middle East situation.

My most profound hope, as I refer to the Government Leader's recent trips, is that he does not plan to be absent quite so often as the Prime Minister. I am not sure the country could afford two such globe-trotters.

Honourable senators, the work of this chamber has changed quite significantly in recent years, and the origin of this evolutionary process can be traced back to those years which preceded the appointment of Senator Martin as Government Leader. However, I wish to give him his share of the merit for the improvement which these changes have brought to the work of the Senate.

The Senate of Canada is not, nor should it be, a duplicate copy of the House of Commons. We have never been able to detect across Canada a consensus in favour of having a system of government in Canada similar to that which exists in the United States.

The Senate has no business trying to compete with the elected body. The idea originally was that this body should be one wherein the views expressed would be characterized by objectivity, detachment and sober reflection. This chamber, it was expected, would not house political partisans so much as learned and experienced statesmen.

The efficiency of the Senate in discharging its responsibilities was to depend on two main factors: the organization of its work, and the appointment of persons desirous of sharing the load.

The organization of our work was modified substantially by the Government when it agreed to initiate more legislation here. In the past few years, we have noticed a significant increase in the number of Government bills originating in the Upper Chamber.

In addition, our committees have been given several additional tasks. Need I mention the most important study of the White Paper on Tax Reform made by the Standing Senate Committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce during the last session, or the work of our special committees on Science Policy, Mass Media and Poverty? Need I mention the report on Canada-Caribbean Relations of our Standing Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs?

Other changes can, and very likely will, be made in the structure of the Senate and the scope of its endeavours. We can look to the discussions on constitutional reform for indications as to what can be expected, as to what lies in store for the Senate. The idea of a Special Joint Committee of the Senate and House of Commons on the Constitution was a good one. It may give a very good example to the participants in future federal provincial conferences on the same subject.

Having dealt ever so briefly with the day-to-day work of the Senate, I wish now to welcome those ladies and gentlemen who were recently called upon to share in carrying out the duties of this chamber.

Prior to the recent appointments, out of a maximum of 102 members this Senate had 18 vacancies, a very high proportion indeed of our number. At times we were moved to wonder whether the Prime Minister might not have entrusted the future of the Senate to fate, and the inevitable march of time.

If the Prime Minister should be toying with the idea of filling the eleven remaining vacancies, may he rest assured that we have more than enough work to keep any new members busy.

With regard to the eight new appointments that were announced two weeks ago, I have nothing but praise for the Prime Minister. His calling to the Senate of people not from the ranks of his own party was, if not original, none the less laudable. I recall that the Right Honourable Louis St. Laurent in 1955 summoned John Hackett to the Senate. I might have been more lavish in my praise of Mr. Trudeau had he followed more closely the example set by Mr. St. Laurent because, as all honourable senators know, John Hackett was a Progressive Conservative, and a very hard-working member of this house.

The former Premier of Alberta, Senator Ernest C. Manning, comes to us with unparalleled experience, having been the Premier of his province for a quarter of a century, and having acceded to that post of such importance and responsibility at the early age of 34. I am given to understand that he is to sit among us as a Social Creditor. I look forward to the speech in which Senator Manning will straighten us all out on the philosophical differences between the Social Credit Party and the Ralliement des Creditistes, and the similarities among Social Credit, social conservatism, and small "c" conservatism. If he would like to follow the example of the Saskatchewan Socreds, we are willing to welcome him into the fold.

[Translation]

Mrs. Thérèse Casgrain will add to the feminine presence here and in this respect she is well deserving of the Prime Minister's choice since her whole life has been but an uninterrupted struggle for the rights of women.

I have reason to believe that in the not-too-distant future she will even be fighting the Government with vim and vigor, and I know she will not hesitate to point out to them their errors and their shortcomings.

I am also convinced that as long as she sits here with us, her high mental capacity, her vitality and her socially-minded attitude will be beneficial to us all. Taking into account the fact that she was at one time national vice-president of the CCF party and leader of the same party in Quebec from 1951 to 1957, it would be natural for Senator Casgrain to sit in the Senate as a New Democrat.

In any case, I personally think that it would be an excellent idea if this party were to have a spokesman in this Chamber, even if such a spokesman were to sit as an independent. I think I can detect here the undercover influence of Mr. Stanley Knowles despite the fact that, as far as I know, Mrs. Casgrain is a determined woman who will not be dictated to by anybody.