

The Special Committee of the Senate on the Clerestory of the Senate Chamber

Evidence

Ottawa, October 23, 1975.

The Special Committee of the Senate on the Clerestory of the Senate Chamber met this day at 10 a.m. to consider the question of the installation of stained glass windows in the clerestory of the Senate Chamber.

Senator John J. Connolly (*Chairman*) in the Chair.

The Chairman: Honourable senators, good morning; as usual, we have difficulty with attendance at this committee because of the demands of the other committees and the pressure of some of the work that they are carrying on. However, I have been informed that some of the members who are attending meetings at 10 o'clock will soon be coming here. I am delighted to see as many members as we have this morning. I wish to tell you in the first place that during the summer months the steering committee met on a number of occasions. I informed you in a memorandum that we had arranged for meetings this fall, this morning being the first. We have with us this morning Dr. Jacques Monet, Chairman of the Department of History at the University of Ottawa. I will introduce Dr. Monet to you in a moment. Our next witness, who will appear one week from today, will be an expert in stained glass and its installation. He was recommended to me by the President of the Royal Canadian Academy of the Arts, Mr. John C. Parkin of Toronto. Also at the instance of Mr. Parkin, we have arranged for the appearance of a lady stained glass artist from Toronto, who will be in attendance in mid-November. We hope, through the kind offices of Dr. Monet, to have Dr. J. M. S. Careless, of the Department of History of the University of Toronto, appear a little later in November or perhaps early in December. Those are the four meetings we have scheduled. You will receive notices but I would ask you to do what you can and I will use my own powers of persuasion, if any, to achieve as good attendance as possible.

It will be desirable for the committee to endeavour to conclude its work and make its report to the Senate before Christmas. If we do that, I believe we will be in fairly good shape.

May I introduce Dr. Jacques Monet to you. Dr. Monet is Chairman of the Department of History at the University of Ottawa; he is also President of the Canadian Historical Association. His University studies were carried on in Montreal and he took his philosophy and theology at the Jesuit School of Philosophy and Theology in Montreal. His history work, in which he is now an eminent specialist, was taken at the University of Toronto, where he took his master's degree in 1961 and his doctor's degree in 1964. He has been in the teaching business for quite a while, at Saint Mary's University in Halifax, Loyola College in Montreal, Loyola College in Toronto—I did not know there was one there.

Dr. Jacques Monet, President, Canadian Historical Association; Chairman, Department of History, University of Ottawa: There isn't. That was a mistake.

The Chairman: He taught at the University of Toronto in 1968 and 1969 and has since joined the staff at the University of Ottawa. Dr. Monet has published a good deal. I do not propose to read the entire list of his publications.

Perhaps I should say that included in his professional activities he was for three years a member of the Comité consultatif d'histoire, gouvernement du Québec. He was editor of Historical Communications, he is a member of Huronia Historical Development Council, a member of the Executive of the Social Science Research Council of Canada. He has been associated for many years with the Canadian Historical Association; he became Vice President and this year is President.

I mentioned his publications. They include books. I have a record of one here called *A New Vision of History and The Heart, Man's Search for Values*, published in 1966.

He has been a very extensive contributor to the Dictionary of Canadian Biography, contributing biographies of many people during the French period and subsequently. In 1969 he published *Electoral Battles in Lower Canada, 1791-1848; Baldwin et LaFontaine*; and *A Study of French Canadian Nationalism*.

It seems to me that we have with us this morning the kind of expert in the field of Canadian history that we have been looking for in order to obtain advice as we approach the problem of the kind of theme we should have, or recommend that we have, in the windows of the clerestory of the Senate.

We will be talking more about theme this morning—obviously an historical theme—rather than the composition of the windows and the technical problems regarding installation.

We welcome you, Dr. Monet, and would ask you to address the committee.

Dr. Monet: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Honourable senators, after an introduction like that I hope I will satisfy your expectations.

First I want to say how grateful I am for this opportunity to meet you, and how profoundly honoured I feel to have been invited here. I know it is not intended for me personally, but I feel personally honoured. The members of the Canadian Historical Association, I know, are very happy to have this opportunity of contributing to the work of the Senate and provoking in the Senate a sober second thought. May I say that?

The Chairman: Yes, indeed. That is historical, too.