

Miss Milne: Mr. Soucy, as far as I know, was the one who was here from 1921 to 1952. Mr. Oosterhoff was here for a very short time—about nine years. Mr. Soucy was responsible for that magnificent door.

Mr. MacNeill: Yes, that is right.

Miss Milne: Mr. Oosterhoff did most of the heads here and in the other place.

Mr. MacNeill: We have had some very good work done here. Not only have we had it done in the stone work but also in the chamber itself. I do not know how many of you remember what happened when the simultaneous interpretation system was put in. The whole of the wall at the south end of the chamber was taken out, and you will notice that those booths were built in there for the interpreters with a one-way glass so that they could see out.

Senator Beaubien: It was beautifully done.

Mr. MacNeill: At that time we had a man here by the name of Desjardins, who was an excellent artist. I am not sure whether it was he or two other men the Department of Public Works obtained who came over and really carved most of that wall, because it had to be rebuilt. This is the Senate record, because when that work was completed the names of those artists were put on the record in the Senate chamber. They did an excellent job, as you can see. No one, who goes in there can possibly visualize just what happened and what they had to do in order to make that part fit into the other parts of the wall that were left. It was very well done.

There is another feature in the Senate chamber. Some of you may have been here when we did the lighting.

The Chairman: It was Senator Brunt who did that; it was a great improvement.

Mr. MacNeill: While he was really the executive who took it on, I think the man who was really responsible for it was our good friend Senator Jean-François Pouliot.

The Chairman: I can correct you on that. Senator Jean-François Pouliot was responsible for the grained windows, but the person who complained about lighting in the chamber was Senator John Haig.

Mr. MacNeill: Yes, Senator John Haig did, because of the glare. You will recall the night when Senator Pouliot came in and he had a pile of books. He has sitting over on the far side and he looked around and said, "I cannot see here. The Department of Public Works does not provide enough light." So he pulled out a big flashlight and proceeded to read by that light. When the laughter died down, he said, "This is not a laughing matter. I want to make a speech here, I want to be heard and I want to read this." So he did. As he went on, he would speak for a few minutes and then pull the flashlight out again and say, "Now I must read this." This went on until the audience broke up. However, as a result of that, everyone started to think about the lighting in the chamber. Senator Brunt was the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Internal Economy at the time. In that case we consulted with the National Research Council, and they sent up some experts on lighting. At that time the only lighting we really had was the main chandelier. Anybody who had to look at that or who had to sit under it, like the Clerk of the Senate, used to be semi-broiled every night in there, because the heat was terrific. You could actually see the heat effect from the chandeliers.

Senator Haig complained that he would be blinded by the lights and, eventually, as a result of complaints, indirect lighting was installed. So the system as we have it now consists of indirect lighting for the actual lighting effects and chandeliers which are there merely as ornaments. The installation could be accomplished by means of access to the ceiling through a crawl space which exists at the ceiling level. You will notice that the lights on one side illuminate the opposite side of the chamber.

The Chairman: It is amazing that that could be done without destroying the border of the ceiling.

Mr. MacNeill: Yes, it did not destroy the ceiling at all. Indeed, anyone looking at it now would hardly realize there was such a thing as a light up there.

Senator Beaubien: How are burned-out bulbs changed now?

Mr. MacNeill: By means of the crawl space.

Senator Beaubien: Of course.

Mr. MacNeill: One of the difficulties at the time was that the glass for that lighting had to be manufactured especially, and this was done by the National Research Council, as a result of which we now have in that chamber one of the best lighting systems anywhere in the world.

The next event that I recall was the decision to put in a simultaneous interpretation system. Senator Mark Drouin, the Speaker at the time, and I went over to look at the system in the House of Commons. As you know, at the time, the microphones in the Commons hung down from the ceiling on long poles. Mark said they resembled children's fishing poles with worms on the ends, as if they were trying to catch something. So he ruled that system out. He instructed me to contact Bell Telephone. Their experts studied the situation, made suggestions, and the system we now have was installed. The money for that was supplied in the Estimates of the Department of Public Works.

Perhaps you remember the visit of the Queen in 1957. It was decided by the government at the time that the proceedings would be televised and that a film would be made by the National Film Board so that we would have a permanent record. I believe that film is called "The Crown and the Mace." In order to produce the film the NFB installed all kinds of lights. In fact, they had so much equipment that they took over a whole corridor of rooms on the first floor which were at that time normally used for divorce proceedings. There were also many cables on the floor and there was some justifiable fear that someone—even the Queen—might stub a toe, fall or otherwise have an accident. Subsequent to all these proceedings, therefore, the Committee on Internal Economy decided that certain steps should be taken. One resolve was that those cables must never be put in there again. The thought was voiced that something else should be done, and the suggestion was made that a permanent, major job should be done on the Senate, and that galleries should be installed on the sides for occasions such as royal visits. As it is, the chamber holds 700 people, and at least 7,000 want to get in on these occasions. The matter was discussed quite thoroughly in committee, and Senator Brunt went over to the Department of Public Works to inquire into it, but, because of a wave of economy hitting the country at the time, it was felt that the cost was prohibitive. In any event, it would have meant that cameras would have to be permanently