

and yet we are all Canadian now, is to take the peasant designs of Poland, Turkey, India, and incorporate them in the bands around the edges of the window so that they will enhance the window, because they are lovely patterns. I have examples here. Also, persons who came from these countries might recognize these and say, "That is the old country," just as they say, when visiting the House of Commons, "Oh, yes, that is our province." I have overheard them; they are quite excited to see it.

Senator Fergusson: I think those windows are wonderful.

Miss Milne: Thank you very much.

Senator Fergusson: Who selects the theme?

Miss Milne: Usually I am given the theme, because I feel that many people are involved.

Senator Fergusson: Certainly they are a great success.

Miss Milne: Thank you.

The Chairman: Miss Milne, when you come back to us, one of the things the committee might like to discuss is the importance of harmonizing the theme which is ultimately decided for the windows with other features of the chamber in general, and in particular, bearing in mind Mr. MacNeill's testimony at the last meeting, what might be done by way of having murals or paintings in the chamber other than the war paintings that we now have there. I do not think we want to go into that this morning. It might be an important aspect of our work, because we must not duplicate and we must not install anything that is going to clash with what will ultimately be the final disposition of the embellishment of the Senate chamber.

Miss Milne: Yes.

Senator Carter: These pictures are themselves historical now, are they not? We have had them for how long—50 years?

The Chairman: Yes, I would think they have been there since shortly after the first world war—perhaps since 1922.

Senator Lafond: They had nothing to do with my war.

The Chairman: Perhaps Mr. MacNeill would know.

Mr. MacNeill: They were hung in the chamber when it was first opened and was being used by the Senate.

The Chairman: That was in the 1920s?

Mr. MacNeill: I am not sure. You should check that.

The Chairman: Is the carving in the chamber finished?

Miss Milne: Yes.

The Chairman: So that we know now anything that anybody will ever know about the carvings?

Miss Milne: We know very little about them; the records were all burned.

The Chairman: But we know what is there.

Miss Milne: Yes. People usually ask me who made them. I get letters from the United States and England, and also photographs, saying "My grandfather carved this"—and this is how we re-build our records. This is good because twice the records in the Department of Public Works

record room have been burned and we have not got much, really.

Senator Carter: While we are on ethnic origins, the ceiling of the chamber, as it is now, has designs and emblems of ethnic groups and not only the founding races. I understand that ethnic groups who have come to Canada are included too.

Miss Milne: No, senator.

Senator Fergusson: I think it is just the founding races.

The Chairman: I went into this at one time with Mr. MacNeill. We have English, Scottish, Irish, Welsh, the fleur de lis for the French, and a three-pronged sprig of maple leaves. I have always said that that sprig represents all the others, but it was put up there before we were really very conscious of the ethnic character of the country and really before it had been developed significantly, except perhaps in the West.

Senator Carter: We also have the patron saints of these groups—St. David, St. Joan of Arc—

The Chairman: I forget the fourth.

Senator Carter:—St. George of Merrie England.

Senator Fergusson: They are still the founding races.

The Chairman: And St. Patrick—to keep the snakes out. We cannot leave him out.

Miss Milne: There is really nothing in this building to represent the other nations. This will be something new.

Senator Carter: I think that is an omission that should be taken care of. I was under the impression that the symbols of all the ethnic groups were there.

The Chairman: I don't think so.

Senator Carter: Just this general one, the maple leaf sprig?

The Chairman: Unless members of the committee have further questions to ask Miss Milne, I would say this meeting could now be adjourned. I hope that our next meeting will involve hearing some evidence from someone in the Department of Public Works, to talk about the practical side, the calling of contracts, the cost, the timing and things like that. Miss Milne tells me that is her job too.

Senator Carter: The Department of Public Works cannot prepare an estimate until they know what you really want.

Miss Milne: They asked me to make estimates and to find the contractor because one has to know about the work in order to choose the right contractor, so I have done that for them.

The Chairman: Perhaps the committee would leave it in my hands to discuss this matter with Miss Milne and perhaps with Mr. G. B. Williams, the Senior Assistant Deputy Minister in the Department of Public Works, and I will try to arrange to have a meeting at some convenient time.

I am a little concerned about one thing. Parliament will probably recess towards the end of June. I wonder whether we are under pressure to complete our hearings by that time. I raise the question because it is a practical problem.