

**Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear!

**Senator Bonnell:**—one of the longest standing members of the House of Commons. He has been a member of Parliament since 1957—and I might add that he lives very close to the site of the proposed fixed link, at Victoria—and has represented that province well in the Government of Canada.

Then, since the Conservative Party was unable to elect a lady in all of Atlantic Canada, I must point out that we also have Senator Rossiter.

**Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear!

**Senator Bonnell:** It is only right, I think, that in the cabinet there be female representation of Atlantic Canada. Perhaps Senator Rossiter would be the one.

As far as we in Prince Edward Island are concerned, honourable senators, we would be pleased if any one of those three senators could be named to the cabinet of Canada to represent our province. That would do it justice and it would be much better served than it has ever been over the past four years.

**Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government, Minister of State for Federal-Provincial Relations and Acting Minister of Communications):** Honourable senators, first, I welcome the belated recognition by Senator Bonnell of the great merits of my colleagues from Prince Edward Island. We have taken note of that. I have also taken note of his view that the election results, so far as Prince Edward Island is concerned, constitute a rejection of the fixed-link concept. I take it he is now personally opposed to that, and it is interesting to have that news on the record.

He will know that decisions regarding the composition of the ministry are made by the Prime Minister and will be announced by him at the appropriate time. I do, however, have to remind him that there were times under Liberal governments when there was no representation in the cabinet from Prince Edward Island, although there were members of the House of Commons from that province. There were other times when there were no Liberal members of the House of Commons from Prince Edward Island, but Prime Minister Pearson and Prime Minister Trudeau did not see fit to appoint Senator Bonnell or other senators from Prince Edward Island to the cabinet. Indeed, if I recall correctly, Senator MacEachen from Nova Scotia, then a member of the House of Commons—and Mr. Jamieson at another time—had the responsibility of representing Prince Edward Island's interests in the cabinet.

**Senator Petten:** And they represented Prince Edward Island well.

**Hon. Orville H. Phillips:** I should like to ask a supplementary question to that of Senator Bonnell. Senator Bonnell stated that he is opposed to the fixed link. I would ask the Leader of the Government in the Senate if the Premier of Prince Edward Island has informed him whether or not he is also opposing the fixed link.

**Senator Murray:** Not recently, honourable senators.

**Senator Bonnell:** Honourable senators, I have a supplementary question. First, let me state that I do not think that the Premier of Prince Edward Island has ever said he is opposed to the fixed link. Therefore, the words "not recently" give a wrong impression.

Secondly, I would like to suggest that I have never said that I am opposed to the fixed link. Therefore, that is another wrong impression. The Conservative Party lost its four seats in Prince Edward Island by giving wrong impressions.

Honourable senators, if there is to be a fixed link, we want to ensure that the environment is protected. We do not want the environment of our province destroyed. We want an environmental study, and we want the people to be informed. We do not want anything underhanded. That is our rationale, and that is why we think any one of those three senators would protect us and look after our rights. They know our Island; they know our people; and they would do a good job.

[Translation]

#### SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

MOTION FOR ADDRESS IN REPLY—DEBATE ADJOURNED

The Senate proceeded to consideration of Her Excellency the Governor General's Speech at the opening of the session.

**Hon. Solange Chaput-Rolland,** seconded by Honourable Richard J. Doyle, moved:

That the following Address be presented to Her Excellency the Governor General of Canada:

To Her Excellency the Right Honourable Jeanne Sauvé, a Member of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada, Chancellor and Principal Companion of the Order of Canada, Chancellor and Commander of the Order of Military Merit upon whom has been conferred the Canadian Forces's Decoration, Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada.

May it please Your Excellency:

We, Her Majesty's most loyal and dutiful subjects, the Senate of Canada in Parliament assembled, beg leave to offer our humble thanks to Your Excellency for the gracious Speech which Your Excellency has addressed to both Houses of Parliament.

She said: Honourable senators, Mr. Speaker, I do not know if the rules of this house allow me to express to you my respect and deference to your decisions, but our friendship of many years prompts me to tell you how pleased I am to sit in this noble and historic chamber with all my colleagues, whatever their political beliefs.

Honourable senators, nobody here or in the other place could be surprised by the highly serene royal speech or, especially in the present circumstances, its conciseness.

However, the very distinguished colleagues around me would be surprised and probably quite taken aback if, in my maiden speech in the Senate, despite the trepidation I feel, I took the liberty of offering a very detailed analysis of the