

to a detailed set of policies which will have been developed with little, if any, consultation with civil servants. I think if the Leader of the Opposition had followed more closely the activities of federal Conservatives rather than those of the Union Nationale, he would have agreed with me, since he attended his own party's Thinkers Conference last fall.

Hon. Mr. Flynn: I am quite sure I have a wider perspective than the honourable senator who is speaking.

Hon. Mr. Croll: Is this a private fight or can I join in it too?

Hon. Mr. Flynn: Of course you can.

Hon. Mr. Aird: I am concerned about your use of the phrase "intellectual community". I had the impression that you intended to develop it as you went along, but so far it has not come through as clearly as it should. What do you mean by that phrase?

Hon. Mr. Lamontagne: Well, you are in that community. To get a definition of that community you only have to look at the people who attended the last Liberal Thinkers Conference near Vancouver—and since I was not there I exclude myself from that—but this event would give you a fairly representative picture of that community. Then if you look at the great Thinkers Conference organized by the Conservative Party last fall, you will have another example of that community; and of course in those who attended the NDP Conference in Toronto, when the Watkins Report was so heatedly discussed, you would find another sample. This is a very loose concept, I know, but since we are not discussing legal concepts at this time, I am sure my honourable friend knows perfectly well what I mean.

Hon. Mr. Aird: I do not know what you mean—that is why I asked the question. I think you are talking in a very wide, generic sense. However, I am prepared to accept that answer, but I do not think I am prepared to accept the answer that the intellectual community is symbolized by the people who attended any of these conferences.

Hon. Mr. Lamontagne: What I mean is that we are now, fortunately or unfortunately, seeing a new class of people which, generally speaking, I call intellectuals who more and more are being invited to share in the preparation and formulation of policies. You only have to look at the task forces which have been established by the former Government

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and by this Government and you only have to look at these various thinkers conferences. I am not saying that this intellectual community will be the only source of political power or of political thinking. My only point at this moment is that this is a new force which will be quite active and influential and will be outside the traditional lines of the Civil Service. I could list quite a number of them.

Hon. Mr. Connolly (Ottawa West): May I ask if you include in the intellectual community those groups that have appeared and are appearing now before the Standing Senate Committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce in connection with the White Paper on Taxation? They are developing a great deal of input and placing a tremendous amount of material for thought before that committee which, I am sure, will have a tremendous effect on policy. Would you regard these people as being part of the intellectual community?

Hon. Mr. Lamontagne: If they appear before the committee on their own behalf and not on behalf of a private lobby, they would, to my way of thinking, and according to my loose definition of the phrase, form part of the intellectual community.

Hon. Mr. Flynn: I cannot see why it should make a difference whether they appear on their own behalf or on behalf of somebody else.

Hon. Mr. Lamontagne: I think the honourable Leader of the Opposition should consult with his colleague, Senator Grosart, because Senator Grosart was very active at the last meeting of the Conservative Thinkers Conference. Let me make it clear that I think it is a very desirable thing and an improvement in our system, provided that this new factor of political influence remains only as one among others, because we are trying in this country to find a more diffuse basis of political influence, and I would certainly hope that the intellectual community would be at least one of them. I do not see why the Leader of the Opposition should be so much against that kind of thing.

Hon. Mr. O'Leary: What you are saying is that we have got away from the practice of party policies being decided by the party leader consulting with his supporters.

Hon. Mr. Lamontagne: I am merely describing new trends.