

Honourable George W. Clarke; from Prince Edward Island, Mr. Alban Farmer, Q.C.; from Saskatchewan, the Minister of Welfare, Honourable C. P. Macdonald.

The secretary to the Canadian delegation was Mrs. Harwood, to whom we all owe a great deal for a job well done. The secretary to the provincial delegation was Mr. G. Lorne Monkley of Prince Edward Island.

Mr. Alistair Fraser, the Clerk of the House of Commons, was in attendance as an observer, and I think this was a useful exercise for us and for him.

Honourable senators, on June 12 I put the agenda of this Conference on the Senate *Hansard*, and I need not repeat it.

The Canadian delegates spoke at most of the sessions, both plenary and committee, and they did very well indeed. Personally, I took part in some of the committee work, although at the plenary session I had some chairman's duty to perform. I had duties to perform also in connection with both the executive committee and the general council.

In the Committee on the Future of the Commonwealth—where there was a most enlightened discussion—I intervened in connection with a problem which I hoped could be solved by some joint effort on the part of Commonwealth governments and perhaps urged in that direction by delegates to Commonwealth Parliamentary Association meetings. This the problem of mediation of disputes, of crises, as they develop both within and between Commonwealth countries, I referred to such areas as India and Pakistan, and to Nigeria, where efforts of all kinds so far have failed to bring the disputing parties together.

This committee happened to be attended by Mr. Arnold Smith, who has made noble efforts in Nigeria. When there are disputes within a Commonwealth country or between two Commonwealth countries, or perhaps between more than two, there is no reason why the Commonwealth authorities in the countries concerned could not look to other Commonwealth sources for mediation.

I spoke also in that committee on another topic, the responsibility which devolves upon the newly independent countries. I referred to the Canadian experience in this respect, as it developed after the passage of the Statute of Westminster in 1931.

There was some considerable discussion about the establishment of a Commonwealth

[Hon. Mr. Connolly (Ottawa West).]

court. I expressed a view, which could only be a personal one, as far as Canada is concerned. We decided many years ago, although it took us sixty or more years to accomplish it, that our own supreme court would be our final court of appeal. In other words, we had come to the point where developments within our judicial system were such that we could rely on our own courts to settle both public and private disputes.

There are some countries in the Commonwealth where the development of the judiciary is not as advanced as it is in other parts. I put this point of view to the committee—again, it was a personal one—that it may still be desirable for some of the emerging developing countries to continue to use the Privy Council as the court of last resort for their disputes.

Another question raised was the possibility of using a Commonwealth court for the resolution of economic and political difficulties between countries. The personal view which I expressed was one which seemed to commend itself to the committee. It was that mediation by knowledgeable people from one country could be looked to as a method of solving some of these problems. Court proceedings could lead to rigidity and delay in this area.

On the committee which dealt with the Future of Parliamentary Democracy, I talked a bit about the relations in Canada between the executive and the private members, the efforts now being made here to have private members more in communication with government and with its plans and policies. This I know happens within the government caucus. I also referred to the fact that certain research facilities are being made available to the Opposition, particularly in the other place, so that their workload will be lessened.

Contributions along similar lines were made by other countries represented there. In other words, one gets the impression from these meetings that parliament is really in an evolving state throughout the Commonwealth.

The most important debate was probably that on Economic Development. It dealt with marketing, regional groupings and marketing arrangements, the climate for foreign investment, tax incentives, and the need for political stability.

The question of aid arose. The Pearson Report had just been released. There was considerable discussion on various parts of that excellent work. The problems of foreign