

the Honourable Senator Connolly (Ottawa West) and all my colleagues for the good work that has been done by this committee to improve conditions in the Senate chamber. I hope the committee will continue its good work, for there still are some things to be done. I trust that with good will and perseverance the physical appearance of the chamber will be improved in the near future.

Hansard continues:

Hon. Mr. Macdonald moved, with leave, that the report be adopted.

The motion was agreed to.

So the quorum of the committee was established at seven, after my remarks. This is the first chapter of a novel which I am reading to you. I have not yet been able to write it all, because of the limitation that is imposed on our supply of paper.

Some Hon. Senators: Oh, oh.

Hon. Mr. Pouliot: But I scribbled some notes. I shall crave the indulgence of honourable members: if I hesitate a little in my speech it is because I did not have enough paper to write it all out.

I have been told that there has been a meeting of the Subcommittee on Stationery. Who are the members of that committee I do not know, because everything is mysterious. But I know that my questions on this subject, which have been on the Order Paper since January 29, were answered, with one exception, today. I have not seen the replies, but I can surmise what they are. In fact, when I ask a question I have a definite idea what the answer will be. I assume that the replies will be as nice as they can be, now that the Minutes of the Proceedings have indicated that yesterday I adjourned the debate on the motion for an Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne.

In the obscurity resulting from lack of knowledge of what the Leader of the Government (Hon. Mr. Macdonald) has said in reply to these questions, may I remark, first,—

Hon. Mr. Macdonald: May I interrupt the honourable gentleman to assure him that I received these answers less than fifteen minutes before I came into the chamber.

Hon. Mr. Pouliot: I do not blame the honourable Leader of the Government. I have not uttered a word of blame. My point is that, in spite of improved ceiling lighting, I am still in dark obscurity with regard to the answers to my questions. Even if the honourable gentleman had them only 15 minutes before the house opened, I did not have even a minute to peruse them before I rose to speak. Therefore, I repeat, my obscurity is profound. But I am not blind. In fact, honourable senators, I am far from being blind, because even in this darkness I can read between the lines.

Of my four questions, the one easiest to answer is precisely the one which has been left unanswered. To familiarize honourable senators with the matter, I will read it. It is this:

What amount of office stationery, supplies and equipment has been supplied by the Senate Stationery Branch during each one of the last ten years

(a) to the three offices of the Speaker of the Senate, and the Leader of the Government in the Senate, and the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate, collectively;

I am not interested to know what quantity of stationery has been used by any one of them. What I want to find out is the total amount of stationery, supplies and equipment used by the three together. That is the first part of my question. Then I asked, what is the amount of office stationery, supplies and equipment supplied—

(b) to each one of the branches of the Senate;

That is clear. And, in the third place,

(c) to the other members of the Senate, collectively?

I will tell my honourable colleagues why I asked this question. It is because the total amount allowed in the Estimates for stationery, supplies and equipment for the Senate is \$7,000. That is not much. But it would be unfair if, to establish the quota of each senator, that amount were divided by the total number of senators, because the three honourable gentlemen to whom I referred in the first place have at their disposal an unlimited amount of supplies and equipment; and, Senate branches must consume large quantities of paper as well. If you disregard the stationery supplies of the three honourable gentlemen—His Honour the Speaker, the honourable Leader of the Government, and the honourable Leader of the Opposition—and that used by the Reporting Branch and the Committees Branch, you are left with the supplies used by honourable senators. It is not a matter of \$7,000, but it is a very easy thing to calculate. If the records were kept in the Committees Branch as they should be, the answer should be available within five minutes. If the question is left unanswered it is because there is something wrong with our Committees Branch. The other day the honourable Leader of the Government did not understand my question very well. He thought that I wanted an outright answer, but it was not that at all. He said he did not know how much paper was used in his office. I would not know how much was used in my office either, because, like all you good honourable senators, when I need some paper I ask for it. I just phone to the Stationery Branch and sometimes I get what I want and sometimes I do not. In any event, I am very surprised not to have received from the