

APPENDIX "A"

January 20th, 1975.

Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0M2
April 8th, 1975Honourable C. M. Drury, P.C.,
Minister of Public Works,
House of Commons,
Ottawa, Ontario.The Honourable John J. Connolly, P.C., Q.C.,
The Senate,
Ottawa, Ontario.
K1A 0A4

Dear Mr. Drury:

Dear Senator Connolly:

A project is in contemplation to install stained glass in the clerestory windows of the Senate. This follows the installation of stained glass in the windows of the House of Commons. The work in the house was undertaken under the direction of the Speaker. The Department of Public Works was involved, and Miss Eleanor Milne had much to do with design, colour and execution.

Re: Senate Stained Glass Windows

There was a short debate on the proposal for the Senate in the spring of 1974. Following that I gave notice of a motion to set up a special committee to consider the problem. My motion will probably be debated in January of 1975, and I think it will be passed. A number of problems must be considered:

I wish to thank you for your letter of January 20, and I apologize for the delay.

1. What will be the probable cost, and is the present an appropriate time for the work to be done?
2. What should be the theme to be depicted?
3. What guidelines are to be recommended for the execution of the project?

To deal specifically with some of the problems you mention, the probable cost, having regard for the expenditures on the windows in the Commons, would be in the order of \$100,000.00 and will probably take two years to complete. These items, however, would be firmed up once a theme is selected.

On page 2—there are numberless possibilities when a theme is selected. While I think a historical topic would be appropriate, this view may not be the view recommended by the Committee. We would expect to have evidence from good historians, and perhaps from other people who would be competent to advise. In any event the theme must be considered from the point of view of its practical application to the windows.

You have properly identified the critical features in that the selection of theme and design to express this theme must be carefully chosen to be appropriate to the Chamber and consistent with other features in the whole of the Houses of Parliament.

We must be careful that the ultimate design and the theme should harmonize with the other features of the Chamber, and that the cost should be reasonable. For this purpose a senior official of the Department of Public Works would be a necessary witness before the Committee, for information and advice. He will not be asked particularly to deal with the question of theme, although the point may arise incidentally. I am at a loss to know to whom we should turn. I would be grateful if you would designate a man with whom I could discuss the matter if the motion is passed.

The idea of a committee to look into this is ideal and I would suggest that it be allied to a committee which is being proposed to consider the ongoing program of completing the carvings throughout the whole of the Centre Block. As a suggestion for the committee to deal with the windows specifically, it might consist of the Speaker of the Senate and or his designated officer, the National Librarian, Dr. J. G. Sylvestre, Dr. Smith, the Dominion Archivist and from this Department, I would suggest Mr. G. B. Williams, Senior Assistant Deputy Minister.

If evidence is to be given by an official of the Department of Public Works, I would think he should not be called until the Committee is able to recommend a theme and has also been informed about design.

If these suggestions for a committee seem appropriate, we could arrange to have Miss Milne the Sculptress present some ideas which she has developed over the last two years, including a proposal for a theme for the Senate windows. It may well be that after the initial examination by the committee, we may wish to supplement its membership by additional professionals in architecture and art or one of the learned societies. The core of the committee, I would suggest however, should be looked to as continuing in operation to deal with the ongoing program of carvings throughout the Centre Block joining with representatives of the Commons. I would be pleased to have your reaction to these suggestions.

I need not add that the Committee will only have authority to recommend. I would think that the Senate's role is also restricted to a recommendation. The recommendation, however, may be helpful.

Yours sincerely,

(C. M. Drury).

Yours sincerely,

John J. Connolly.

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