

cal appliances, lawn mowers and things of that kind. This legislation is urgently needed and I strongly recommend it to you for your support.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Fournier (Madawaska-Restigouche), debate adjourned.

INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

FIFTY-SIXTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN LIMA, PERU

The Senate resumed from Tuesday, December 17, 1968, the adjourned debate on the inquiry of the Hon. Mr. Dessureault calling the attention of the Senate to the 56th Annual Conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, held in Lima, Peru, from 5th to 13th September, 1968, and in particular the discussions and proceedings of the meetings and the participation therein of the delegation from Canada.

Hon. Allister Grosart: Honourable senators, though I was not a member of the Distinguished Canadian delegation to the Inter-Parliamentary Union Conference at Lima, Peru, I am taking this opportunity to make a few remarks arising out of the report presented to us by our delegates who were there. I refer particularly to the reports that we had from Senator Dessureault and Senator Thorvaldson. I presume that in due course we will be receiving a report from Senator McDonald, who is temporarily absent from the chamber.

I should say perhaps that both Senators Dessureault and Thorvaldson have very distinguished records in the affairs of this conference. Both have on several occasions been leaders of Canadian delegations. Senator Dessureault has been additionally distinguished, being the first Canadian member of the Executive Committee of that organization.

I thought I would mention these accomplishments of our colleagues because reports I have had on this conference make it very clear that it was a most important conference and that the contribution made by the Canadian delegation, headed in this case by Mr. Grant Deachman, was a very outstanding one. In saying that, I am not just paying the usual compliments. There have been a good many reports indicating that the Canadian delegation made perhaps a greater contribution than any other at this particular time.

I particularly want to compliment the senators on the fact that they have arranged to have the report of the Canadian delegation published as an appendix to our *Hansard*. I

say this because, in order to put the conference into proper context, I found that I had to read publications published in other countries. I am glad to say that the delegates from the Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group initiated this very useful way of reporting, giving a full report of their deliberations in our *Hansard*. I believe that Senator Macnaughton will within a few days add considerably to the report of that particular group.

I think it is important to mention these facts because it seems to me that one of the great deficiencies in the recognition of the work of Canadian parliamentarians in international affairs over the years has been the lack of reporting of what they have accomplished. It is regrettable, to me at least, that such conferences are not the subject of report and debate in the other place. Indeed, in many cases I find that the only report of these important international conferences and of the participation of Canadian delegations is to be found in the reports made by individual senators in this chamber. I deplore the fact that the ministries, the Governments over the years, have not themselves taken the initiative in drawing attention to the participation of Canadian parliamentarians in these conferences.

The report presented by our senators here on the IPU does not of course tell the whole story of the Canadian success at that time—obviously for reasons of modesty. However, I repeat that it is unfortunate that we do have to go to publications in other countries to find out what Canadian parliamentarians are doing.

Hon. Mr. Martin: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Grosart: There is abundant evidence that the participation of Members of Parliament, from both chambers, is becoming an increasingly important and effective instrument in dealing with world problems.

If I may take a moment, I will put that in a broader context by saying that it is obviously a truism to say that to some extent in Canada we are victims of our history in this regard. For most of that history we were colonials. The conduct of our international affairs was, for most of our history, in the hands of European nations, first France and then the United Kingdom. Even our spectacu-