

is required to be done. If the officers of the house would even echo the call for order I think it would suffice. The persons in the lobby do not desire to be disorderly or uncomplimentary to Her Majesty's representative; they simply do not know that the proceedings are under way, and so the noise continues, making it almost impossible to hear what is being said and requiring the representative of the Crown to speak at the top of his voice to be heard at all.

If it meets with the approval of my fellow members I suggest that steps be taken—I do not care what they are, so long as they achieve results—to assure that a proper decorum is observed in this house when the Governor General commences the Speech from the Throne. I think all that is required is to have the officers out in the hall listen until the Black Rod calls for order, and then repeat the call so that the people there may have notice that the proceedings are about to begin. They will then quieten down as rapidly as we do in the chamber. This is a small matter, but, as I have said, I suppose somebody must bring it to the attention of the authorities or it will go on indefinitely.

Hon. Thomas Vien: Honourable senators, I concur in the remarks made by the honourable senator from Toronto-Trinity (Hon. Mr. Roebuck). If we could accomplish what he has suggested, it would add to the dignity of the Senate and of Parliament as a whole. Most of the noise, however, comes from outside the house.

In years gone by this point has often been raised. I recall that when I was Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons we tried to influence honourable members to keep silence when coming to the bar of the Senate. But members congregating here for the opening of a session are somewhat like school boys coming back after a summer recess: they get together and exchange greetings. Although entirely in accord with the remarks made by the honourable senator from Toronto-Trinity, I cherish very little hope that an effective remedy could be found to cure the evil which he has brought to our attention.

A few other points of a similar nature could also be properly discussed. For instance, we invite ladies and gentlemen to attend the opening of Parliament. Some of them are seated on the floor of the Senate, others in the lobby behind the bar. When the members of the House of Commons congregate, they stand in front of the people sitting in the lobby, so that these people do not see or hear what is going on. When this building was designed it was intended to instal galleries along the sides of this chamber

where war paintings now hang. The galleries have remained unfinished. If they were now provided on both sides, as is done in other chambers, there would be convenient accommodation for distinguished visitors who come here at our invitation. Our guests should never be seated behind the standing members of the House of Commons.

Honourable senators, this year we shall celebrate the fortieth anniversary of the start of construction of this building, for the building was begun in 1917, although it was not opened until 1920. I would suggest that our Standing Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds take up the question of whether galleries could be provided as contemplated in the original plan. If this were done, people could be seated there and honourable members of the House of Commons would have more room.

Perhaps we could draw the attention of the Honourable the Speaker of the House of Commons to the matter complained of. When honourable members of that house come over here to attend His Excellency the Governor General or his deputy, they should show respect to the representative of the Crown by keeping silence or holding their peace until the Speech from the Throne is finished.

Hon. A. K. Hugessen: Honourable senators, I am afraid I disagree both with the honourable senator from Toronto-Trinity (Hon. Mr. Roebuck) and the honourable senator from De Lorimier (Hon. Mr. Vien). I should be very sorry to see the members of the House of Commons remain completely silent from the moment that they came to this chamber. I think it is a good thing that they talk, and I will tell you why. It is a tradition that we inherit from the British House of Commons, a tradition which the members of that house have for many years cherished very carefully, that they did not need to listen to the royal speech if they did not want to, and that they had the right to converse among themselves behind the bar if they so wished. That is the reason it is done; and, as one who rather likes to think that our old traditions are kept up, I should be very sorry to have any such rule made as is suggested by the honourable senator from Toronto-Trinity.

Hon. Mr. Roebuck: I said nothing about the members of the House of Commons. It may be that they have the right to make all the noise they like. I referred only to those visitors who stand behind the bar and behind the members of the House of Commons and are unaware when proceedings have commenced. I ask only that they be notified