

However, I am very glad that we are doing something about the clerestory. That is a rather new word for me, but we learn something new every day. I have always regarded it as something that is not very pleasant to look at, and certainly non-artistic. It does not seem to blend with everything else that we have in the chamber. I realize it was done as an expedient at the time it was done, and presumably rather cheaply. I have every confidence in the chairman and members of this committee, and as a former chairman of the Internal Economy Committee I am very pleased to see the direction in which we are apparently going.

The Chairman: Thank you, Senator Smith.

Senator Yuzyk: I will just ask about the cost again. Will these costs appear as a one-dollar item in the estimates of Public Works?

The Chairman: I would not think so. I would think there would be a realistic estimate.

Mr. Fortier: Well, in the blue book, frankly I do not know. There have been so many changes in the preparation of the estimates since I was in Public Works. I presume there are a number of general votes for maintenance. It would be a specific item known as "Senate Precincts," for example. It would be out of a general vote, but I cannot give you the exact way in which it would be done.

The Chairman: I suppose the breakdown of the general vote being carried out before a committee would disclose the fact that there is "X" number of dollars set aside as an estimate to cover the expenses of a project like this. I should think so, anyway.

Senator Yuzyk: Thank you.

The Chairman: Are there any other questions for Mr. Fortier?

Well, honourable senators, more than 21 years ago I came to this chamber as a very young member, and the first call I made was to the office of the then Clerk of the Senate, an old friend of mine since he had been a distinguished lawyer in the Department of Justice, and then Law Clerk of the Senate for many years. I had been sitting at his feet while I was a very junior member of the Bar, learning about the intricacies of the practice of law before various bodies around Parliament, and I found that by being appointed to the Senate I was still sitting at his feet. I have been doing so, really, ever since.

I think all of us have had a similar experience with John MacNeill. He has not only been a great counsellor for us, but he has been a friend of every senator who has passed through his hands. It is a great pleasure to have him here this morning. He is retired now, and has been for a number of years, but he still retains his vigour and also his good looks, for the benefit of the ladies! It is gratifying that he should come up here and show a continuing interest in our problems, particularly as we struggle with the problem of making this chamber of ours not only more useful but, I hope, even more beautiful. With that kind of motivation all through, he has had many years of fruitful service here.

Mr. MacNeill: we do not want you to be pinned down to anything very specific. All of us in the Senate like to talk about the Senate. I have learned through years of experience, as we all have, that you like to talk about the Senate. That is why you are here. Would you talk about the Senate?

Mr. John F. MacNeill, Q. C., Former Clerk Of The Senate and Clerk of the Parliaments: Mr. Chairman and honorable senators, I like to talk about the Senate. I have done a lot of talking in and around the Senate over the years—and I suppose I have been around here longer than any of you.

I am not going to give you a history of the Senate. My interest in the Senate started when I was sent up here as a very young counsel from the Department of Justice, because no one else in that department wanted to come here to face the Senate committee on certain bills coming before it. The departmental staff thought that if they sent somebody who would look like a lamb for the slaughter, possibly those who were in the Senate at the time would have mercy on him. They thought that probably would be the better way to proceed in order to secure the passing of a certain bill. I was selected and came up in fear and trembling and faced a much larger audience than I face this morning. I do not know whether any of you remember the Honourable Senator Frank Black, who was the Leader of the Government. On the one side was Senator Dandurand and on the other side at that time was Senator Gideon Robertson, who was at one time Minister of Labour and who, as such, of course, was a member of the Cabinet with a portfolio.

Senator Beaubien: Mr. MacNeill, in what year was that?

Mr. MacNeill: This was 1924. That is quite a long while ago. I have become a senior citizen, so I see you can do a little arithmetic.

The Chairman: I do not want to be facetious. I thought that was the year they discovered Tutankhamen's tomb.

Mr. MacNeill: I think that is so. That is why I am very glad I am here this morning. However, having started my career in the Senate with those gentlemen, it was next decided that I should go to the House of Commons.

The Chairman: You were the expert.

Mr. MacNeill: I became an expert, not quite overnight. But from that day until this I have made many trips to Parliament Hill and have talked to many committees of the Senate and of the House of Commons.

The reference to this committee is rather restricted to windows, and that is something that I do not know very much about. I have had the pleasure of looking at the windows in the House of Commons and I must say that they are among the most beautiful that I have ever seen. I am very pleased that the artist, the author of that very lovely work, is here this morning, because I would like to congratulate her publicly. I do not know too many artists, but I do not know of anyone better qualified to do a job for the Senate than Miss Milne. We have been very fortunate in the artists that we have had here. Her predecessor, Mr. Dosterhoff, worked here for some years. He was a great artist, and I had the pleasure of knowing him longer and, of course, I had more to do with him than with Miss Milne.

The Chairman: What did he do?

Mr. MacNeill: He was Miss Milne's predecessor.

The Chairman: Yes, but did he work in the Senate chamber itself?

Mr. MacNeill: He worked in the foyer and on the building. He had not completed that work when you were appointed.