

● (2120)

I think I have provided honourable senators with sufficient detail to convince them that the Prime Minister's performance in the area of Senate appointments has been confusing and inconsistent. To repeat, if he is really interested in appointing Tories to this chamber, there is nothing to stop him from doing so.

[*Translation*]

Honourable senators, I have come to a very simple conclusion. If the Prime Minister really wants to have balanced representation of the parties in the Senate, and more particularly if he wants the official opposition to be able to play its role efficiently, not only need he not put conditions on reinforcing the ranks of the official opposition or simply, the opposition, he must not do so: when the time comes he need only exercise his traditional prerogative of consulting in advance the Leader of the Opposition, if he feels it might be helpful to do so.

You will have noticed that I put before you, objectively and very serenely, only the elements of the problems, the facts, and that without peevishness. Once again, I am not seeking the

good of the Progressive Conservative Party but that of the Senate which I am eager to see function as ably as possible.

I chose to deal with the topic through an inquiry to allow the Leader of the Government, as well as all my colleagues, to express their views if they see fit. As for me, when this debate ends, I intend to abstain from discussing the subject, as long as I have not had concrete proof that the Prime Minister really intends to invite an adequate representation of the official opposition, or simply the opposition, to sit in the Senate. As far as I am concerned, it is primarily and exclusively his problem. It is up to him to act. If he does not do so, it will then be up to the tribunal of public sentiment to pass judgment on him.

[*English*]

Senator Perrault: Honourable senators, I think we all appreciate the remarks which have been made this evening by Senator Flynn outlining a problem which not only affects the official opposition in the Senate but the viability of the Senate itself. As it is my intention to reply to the honourable senator's statement, I move the adjournment of the debate.

On motion of Senator Perrault, debate adjourned.

The Senate adjourned until tomorrow at 2 p.m.