

But more important than that, honourable senators, I would like to say that, on the first day that I entered this chamber, I felt proud to be among you. I felt proud to be around men like Senator Duff Roblin, a former premier of Manitoba whose grandfather, Sir R. P. Roblin was also premier of that province. I felt honoured to be with men like Senator Jacques Flynn, whose grandfather was the last Tory premier of Quebec, Mr. E. J. Flynn. Senator Flynn is not here today and while I am honoured to be in the same chamber with him, I must say I am glad that his grandfather was the last Tory premier of Quebec.

Honourable senators, I must tell you that I feel very honoured to sit with people such as Senator Hicks, a former premier of Nova Scotia. Senator Hicks is a gentleman who reminds me a little of a character out of Dickens.

I am honoured to share the chamber with Senator Robichaud, a former premier of New Brunswick, and Senator Godfrey, who once commanded Air Squadron 414 and tells me it has never been the same since. He further told me that he was sorry that I had not opted to be a senator from Rosedale, since he could then be the senior senator from Rosedale while I would be the junior.

I must say that my first months in the Senate were spent with some vigour. Senator Sparrow does not seem to be in the chamber this afternoon, but I must tell you that I travelled with the agriculture committee and feel very honoured to have played a part in producing the report called "Soil at Risk: Canada's Eroding Future". However, as we were received across the country in our travels with that committee, it was clear to me that people in this country are looking to the Senate for leadership. Far from the demeaning image that is frequently projected of senators dozing in the chamber, my experience has been that the people of this country are watching us and are expecting us to produce.

I am by nature a collector. I collect Canadiana and all sorts of other things, and when I was first appointed to the Senate a friend of mine presented me with a copy of an old book called *Constitutional Issues in Canada* written by a very famous Canadian, R. MacGregor Dawson. I am sure you are all familiar with the work of Mr. Dawson, but this particular book is interesting because Mr. Dawson has used quotations from the works of Lewis Carroll to punctuate his comments on the Canadian system of government.

Upon receiving this book, since I had just been appointed to the Senate, obviously the first thing I did was turn to the chapter entitled "The Senate". Honourable senators, I would like to read to you the quotation from Lewis Carroll's "Through the Looking Glass" that R. MacGregor Dawson chose to use to introduce his writings on the Senate of Canada. I quote thus:

They stood so still that she quite forgot they were alive, and she was just going round to see if the word 'TWEEDLE' was written at the back of each collar, when she was startled by a voice coming from the one marked 'DUM'.

'If you think we're wax-works,' he said, 'you ought to pay, you know. Wax-works weren't made to be looked at for nothing . . .'

Honourable senators, that rather touched me, because I do believe that we in this chamber, as a group, have had superimposed upon us an image showing us as dead, nearly dead, somewhat inert or terribly, terribly inactive. We must correct this.

I would like to continue by congratulating the new Speaker of the Senate, Senator Charbonneau, the new Leader of the Government, Senator Roblin, and the new Deputy Leader of the Government, Senator Doody. On the other side, I would like to congratulate our own Liberal leader in this house, Senator MacEachen, and our veteran deputy leader, Senator Frith. I would also like to simultaneously congratulate the two whips, Senator Phillips and Senator Petten. To the outgoing leaders, Senator Olson and Senator Flynn, and to the outgoing Speaker, Senator Riel, I would like to say a very special thank you from all of us.

I would like to extend my congratulations to all of the new appointees to this chamber. It may be rather unorthodox, but there is one more gentleman that I would like to congratulate. I have not yet heard anyone else congratulate him. He does not sit in this chamber; he sits in the other place. But on September 4, I am sure that every single political being among us and every decent human being among us was glad to see him elected. The man I am speaking of is the Honourable John Napier Turner. On election night, September 4, as the polls came in and as his defeat was virtually announced before the ballots began to be counted, it seemed to me that a very interesting phenomenon occurred. Normally, when candidates are going down to defeat, very early in the evening the canvassers and workers disappear. On this one particular night, it seemed to me that all of us were waiting for this one result. I think all of us as politicians, regardless of the colour of the party we belong to, would agree that the election of John Turner that night was a blessing for this country at the behest of the voters in Quadra.

Turning now to the Speech from the Throne, I would like to tell you that I listened very carefully when the speech was read and, although many of these items have been mentioned previously, I would like to re-emphasize some of them.

At page three, the following appears:

Let it be also the beginning of a new era of national reconciliation—

At page four, the following is found:

—a priority goal of my Ministers will be . . . to breathe a new spirit into federalism and restore the faith and trust of all Canadians—

At page five, the following is found:

Ultimately such a new consensus must be reflected in the fundamental law of our land—

At page six, the following is found: