

and the motion of Hon. Mr. Bois, seconded by Hon. Mr. Smith (Kamloops), for an Address in reply thereto.

**Hon. Jean-François Pouliot:** Honourable senators,—

**Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear.

**Hon. Mr. Pouliot:**—in the first place it is my great pleasure to congratulate the mover (Hon. Mr. Bois) and the seconder (Hon. Mr. Smith) of the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, and I welcome them to this chamber. They made remarkably good speeches, for which they deserve congratulations. They will be an asset to this house, just as will the other two new senators who were sworn in at the beginning of this session. The honourable senator from Westmorland (Hon. Mr. Taylor) gave a good explanation of the reasons for subsidizing the transportation of western grain to the east, and he thereby rendered a service which should be appreciated by all eastern farmers.

I must tell you, honourable senators, that I have a warm feeling for all of you, and a feeling of respect and admiration. I have realized since my appointment to the Senate that it is a pleasure to work with you. If anyone cares to look at the Commons *Hansard* of several years ago, 1949, it will be seen that I made a few remarks about the Woolsack, which was a bag not of wool but of cotton, that took up a lot of room on the occasions when it was used in this chamber. After I spoke about it in the House of Commons it disappeared, for the great convenience of honourable members, and also of the judges, who complained that they were falling over on each other while they were sitting on the Woolsack; and it was disgraceful that some of them had to keep their backs turned to His Excellency when he was reading the Speech from the Throne. The Woolsack was a thing of the past. As I said at the time, it would have to vanish as soon as appeals to the Privy Council from Canada were no longer heard and the Supreme Court became our final tribunal. The thing was done; and I am told that the Woolsack is now kept in the dusty attic of this chamber, where it is slowly being eaten by moths. I thought it was ridiculous to have the Woolsack in front of the Table, and it was to prevent the Senate from being ridiculed that I complained about it. Finally, my voice was heard, at least for a time. And the judges were very grateful: they told me they were very pleased to sit on chairs instead of falling over on each other. The Woolsack was an institution of the past, which was not part of this house. It is different in the House of Lords, because unless the Lord Chancellor sits on the Woolsack he is not allowed to speak.

Other suggestions were made for the improvement of this chamber, to make it look more attractive for the people who deign to visit us while we are in session; they are not numerous, but the more attractive the chamber is, the more people will come to attend our sittings and listen to us, inasmuch as they can hear what is said here. I appreciated very much the speech that was made by the Leader of the Opposition (Hon. Mr. Haig) on August 2, last, when the Senate was considering several reports of the Committee on Internal Economy. He said that there was one matter which had been considered by the committee. To quote the honourable gentleman:

I have reference to improvements in the lighting, ventilation, the decorations and the acoustic properties of this chamber.

That was very nice. He went on to say:

... A subcommittee composed of the honourable Leader of the Government (Hon. Mr. Macdonald), the Chairman of the Public Buildings and Grounds Committee (Hon. Mr. Dessureault), and the honourable senator from Ottawa West (Hon. Mr. Connolly) was appointed with power to act. It will deal with lighting and ventilation, the provision of a new carpet for the Senate chamber, and, most important of all, the installation of an acoustic system which will enable us to hear what is said by honourable senators in every part of the chamber. The subcommittee will also have regard to the paintings and seats. The important thing, however, is to improve the acoustic properties.

Which was all well and good. Then he added, on this memorable day of August 2, 1956:

We want good acoustics in this chamber without in any way spoiling its appearance. I hope that will be kept in mind. The subcommittee may decide that it should have the advice of all honourable members before taking action on a particular matter, and if so I for one would be in favour of coming here during the recess, even at some personal inconvenience.

Apparently the honourable gentleman did not come, because the acoustics have not been improved. I do not know what has been done in this respect, but if something has been done it is still unseen.

Honourable senators, you will excuse me if I deal with all these matters. You were very generous to me last year, because I was then the junior member of the Senate, the last one to be appointed to this body. But now I do not have that privilege. I belong to the old guard, and I shall try to have some of the wisdom of my elder colleagues in dealing with matters of great interest.

The views expressed by the honourable Leader of the Opposition in the same speech about the beauty of this house were not shared by the senators of the past who were familiar with the settings of the chamber which was destroyed by fire during the First