

Canadian people might see the level of investigation, the virtual absence of partisanship, and the informed line of questioning pursued by senators. They would also have seen how legislation has been improved and other inquiries have been more meaningful from studies undertaken by Senate committees. Again, on balance, there is no doubt that televising the proceedings of the committees of the Senate would benefit the Senate.

Those who accepted appointments to the Senate did so because they believed in the Senate. They believe that the Senate does good work for the country, has done good work for the country and will continue to do good work for the country. They continue to be senators because of that. They attend Senate sittings because they believe there is useful work to be done, and they attend meetings of committees because they believe there is useful work to be done for the country. With the media means at our disposal up to now, including the press, *Hansard*, radio, print in various other forms—in articles and reviews—for over one hundred years we have not really been able to communicate why we think the Senate serves a useful purpose, and that senators work hard and effectively at their jobs. We have not been able to do that; television, in my view, will do that.

Therefore, I support the main motion and have only some reservations as to the committee to which the matter should be referred. I do not think there is any question that the Senate should decide in favour of the principle of televising its debates and the proceedings of its committees. After doing so, the Senate should refer the matter to the Standing Committee on Standing Rules and Orders, or to the Standing Committee on Internal Economy, Budgets and Administration.

On motion of Senator Doody, debate adjourned.

● (1450)

[Translation]

END OF DECADE WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

MEETING HELD AT NAIROBI, KENYA

Hon. Paul D. David rose pursuant to notice of Thursday, September 19, 1985:

That he will call the attention of the Senate to the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, held at Nairobi, Kenya, from 15th to 26th July, 1985.

He said: Honourable senators, before expressing some thoughts inspired by the World Conference on the United Nations Decade for Women, I wish to thank you for your cordial and friendly welcome since my swearing-in on April 25 of this year.

When I accepted the responsibilities of a senator, it was because I was tempted to follow in the footsteps of my grandfather, Laurent-Olivier, who was appointed to the Senate by Sir Wilfrid Laurier in 1903, and my father Athanase, appointed to the Senate by Mackenzie King in 1940.

[Senator Frith.]

I feel a little like Laurent-Olivier, who wrote in the preface to his last book, "Au soir de la vie" (1924):

I believe that when a man has been involved in all the things of this world for more than 50 years . . . he should say what he has seen and observed, pointing out what could be useful to his fellow citizens and guide them, helping them avoid the errors and mistakes he may have made himself. At a time in life when he is no longer driven by passion or self-interest, I think a man has a right to believe that his comments and advice are of some value.

I would like to quote a passage from the book "En marge de la politique" by Athanase David (1934), Chapter 3, (page 180), which I find illuminating.

Only one quality can enhance the strength of an ideal that is deeply anchored in the history of a nation and that is an optimism that is both prudent and reasonable . . . Let politicians remember the role they are supposed to play. They must give instructions. They must tell the people the truth about what our goal is. And our goal, the only one we can consider without betraying our traditions, is to perpetuate in Canada the concept that formed the basis for the creation of this country.

I was very moved by what was said by Senator Riel, who paid tribute to my mother, the daughter of a politician who was a minister in Quebec City and the niece of an uncle who was a minister in Ottawa. She was a woman of action, who dedicated her life to music, creating the Montreal Festival and the Montreal Symphony Orchestra, and who did so with endless patience and perseverance. It was her dedication that gave me a taste for action and for challenging situations. It was her example that led me to found, direct and develop the Institut de Cardiologie de Montréal.

At the end of my 31 years' service at this centre for hospital care, teaching, preventive medicine, rehabilitation and research, I was looking forward to my retirement when I would be able to concentrate on reading and writing, philosophy and working with volunteer community and health organizations.

A surprise call from our Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Brian Mulroney, put an end to my retirement of three and a half months! I am counting on your goodwill and experience, honourable senators, to help me appreciate the joys of politics, avoid its pitfalls and maintain at all times the requisite will to promote essential values, and ensure that our young people will have a future full of hope, peace and success, in a country known for its tradition of hospitality, understanding, mediation, diversity and progress.

I am ready to serve those admirable objectives to the best of my knowledge and ability. You can count on my co-operation, my work, my availability and my friendship.

Honourable senators, before starting my report on the United Nations Conference on the Women's Decade, I would like to add, of course, honourable "sénatrices".