

States on the recommendation of President Franklin Roosevelt, to express the gratitude of the American people.

This article is a piece of cheap journalism, but it is consistent with much that has been written about Newfoundland in recent years, usually, but not always, by visiting itinerant journalists and writers who, having enjoyed the hospitality of the Newfoundland people, seize hold of some grotesque or bizarre aspect of our life or culture,—

And every country and every community has that.

—distort it out of proportion, and, where necessary, invent, to produce something to sell.

I regret that *Maclean's* has unwittingly encouraged this form of journalistic prostitution by publishing the article in question.

Honourable senators, we do not as a rule pay any attention to articles, stories and other items that appear from time to time. We try to shrug them off. However, this article, carried in a national magazine, is so libelous in character that I felt I had no choice, as a citizen of Newfoundland and as a Canadian, to rise in my place to repudiate it.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

MOTION FOR ADDRESS IN REPLY—DEBATE CONTINUED

The Senate resumed from yesterday consideration of His Excellency the Governor General's Speech at the opening of the session, and the motion of Senator Hicks, seconded by Senator Lafond, for an Address in reply thereto.

Hon. Jacques Flynn: Honourable senators, I take you back to the last day of the last session of the Twenty-eighth Parliament, to September 1, 1972, to be precise. It was quite obvious when we met then that the government had finally decided to dissolve Parliament and go to the people.

I expressed the hope at that time that when we reconvened there would be drastic changes in this and the other place.

• (1410)

It was obvious on September 1 that when we returned the Senate would have refurbished paintings on the walls. I was hoping, however, for something more meaningful. I was hoping for several new faces, especially Conservative faces. I was especially hoping for a change of sides. That has not quite come to pass yet. It is a project we Conservatives have for the late winter or early spring.

Well, the changes in the Senate have not been as dramatic as I had hoped. It is in the other place that we have a situation without precedent in our political history. I will come back to that matter later. First of all, I should like to deal with the situation in this chamber.

There is no doubt about it, Senator Martin is still the Leader of the Government in this chamber, and in that respect I feel I must express to him my most heartfelt sympathy. It will not be any easier to defend this metamorphosed Trudeau government than it was to defend the previous one. Senator Martin, admittedly, has vast experi-

ence in adapting to changed circumstances. He has learned to adapt to contradictory policies over the years as well as to leaders with completely different personalities.

There is no doubt about it, as I said before, Senator Martin is flexible—flexible and thick-skinned. One has to be to have served with equal devotion under Mackenzie King, St. Laurent, Pearson, and Pierre Trudeau. Senator Martin owes his survival only to his unquestioning party loyalty.

But Senator Martin can take heart. The horrible task of defending this government, as I read the Throne Speech, has been lightened somewhat. He will not have to tell us about the "Just Society," nor will he have to tell us how "This Land is Strong." That sort of bilge water has been washed away.

The 1968 Liberal program is to be forgotten. As a matter of fact, the Liberals would even like to sweep under the rug the program they proposed in the most recent campaign. The idea now is to sell the Throne Speech. Granted, the sale of intangibles is not easy, but Senator Martin can take consolation in the fact that he will not have to struggle for long. He will soon be relieved of his duties as government leader in this chamber.

Honourable senators, I pause here to congratulate Senator Muriel McQueen Fergusson on having been appointed Speaker. She is the first woman to preside over this body, and, in fact, the first lady Speaker in the federal Parliament.

She is a fine choice. Her appointment has met with unanimous approval. From the time she was summoned to the Senate in 1953, Senator Fergusson has demonstrated wisdom, ability, industriousness and a high sense of duty. She has steadfastly championed the causes of the less fortunate in our society and has gained everyone's profound respect for so doing.

Her appointment pleases me in a personal way. I have known Senator Fergusson since 1942, at which time we were both enforcement counsel for the Wartime Prices and Trade Board, she in Saint John, New Brunswick, and I in Quebec City.

I can assure you, Madam Speaker, that from the Official Opposition you will receive nothing but the fullest co-operation. We wish you well. We already know that you can discharge your duties with excellence. I would say here that the best thing you have done in French is to recite the prayers.

Honourable senators, we also have five new members. Four of them are former cabinet ministers. The fifth is not a privy councillor, but I am sure she is just as capable, certainly more charming, and definitely a lot prettier. I am sure that, given the results of the last election, Senators Greene, Côté and Laing probably appreciate being here more than they ever suspected they would.

[Translation]

May I be permitted to give special mention to the accession to this chamber of Senator Martial Asselin. He is the first since 1963 to join the ranks of the Official Opposition. We are grateful to the Prime Minister for having strengthened our group by appointing a man who is still young and energetic and enriched by valuable experience