

the House of Commons, and with 265 members you know what that is like.

But one thing that could be done, if we are going to continue with that chamber the way it is—and this is not my suggestion, it has been suggested before—is that only heads of missions be invited. At another conference which I attended the suggestion was made that only the dean of the diplomatic corps should be invited. This would cut the numbers down a great deal.

Senator Yuzyk: That would be very drastic. I counted recently that there are now 83 embassies in Ottawa.

Mr. MacNeill: They have grown like mushrooms.

The Chairman: I think, as a matter of fact, about two-thirds of the west side of the floor of the chamber is occupied by diplomatic corps people on the occasion of every formal opening.

Mr. MacNeill: That means there is very little room, with no room for the public at all except for the back row in the north gallery.

The Chairman: And very little room for the members of the Senate.

Mr. Fortier: Since we are dealing with this point, Mr. Chairman, this may be a good time to bring to your attention and to the attention of the senators that after the last formal Opening I received a letter from Senator Hayden and verbal representations from at least one other senators, I think it was Senator Croll, that thought should be given to making arrangements other than the ones now prevailing with these benches on the floor of the Chamber, because Senator Hayden said that he was very uncomfortable and on a couple of occasions almost fell off because the benches were so crowded.

Mr. MacNeill: They are very uncomfortable.

The Chairman: This is a long-range problem for the Senate, and I think it has been before the Senate many times, but it does not really affect the decor of the chamber and it does not affect the installation of stained glass windows or the theme which those windows will reflect. It could, however, have an ultimate effect upon the symbolic place of the Senate and of the chamber of the Senate in the general constitutional structure of the country and in the promoting and development of that idea in a way that is acceptable to people.

Mr. MacNeill: There is also the question of the effect on the acoustics if you put those galleries in.

The Chairman: What do you think yourself, Mr. MacNeill, about the general proportion of the chamber—first of all now and, secondly, if consideration were given to the establishment of galleries, whether large or small?

Mr. MacNeill: I would not like to see that at all. I think it is a beautiful chamber and I dislike even the thought of smashing it out and putting galleries in. So far as the public is concerned, if we put the proper television facilities in there, then a great many more people will have the opportunity of seeing the beauty of that chamber through television than will ever go in there to see it for themselves. It has been said to me by certain people that they would prefer to look at an Opening of Parliament in their own living room than to come up to the Hill and be crowded here where it is almost impossible to move and

almost impossible even to breath. They have said that it is quite all right to come here and see what is going on, but they can see it much better if they stay home.

The Chairman: They also have the added advantage of having commentators.

Senator Fergusson: But, Mr. MacNeill, if you would like to see it remain as it is, you would not want to see the pictures remain, would you? Would you want those changed?

Mr. MacNeill: Well, when that was discussed some years ago, it was suggested that murals should be put in place of those pictures; that these murals should be created as the result of a competition restricted to Canadian artists; and that we should say to them, "What shall we put in here and how can we do it so that it will best express the composition of this country?" When it comes down to that, I am not too sure that you could bring in all the ethnic groups in this country, but I think you could bring in all the ethnic groups in this country, but I think you could bring in all racial groups. We are not all white in this country, and people of other colours have contributed a great deal to the development of Canada, so you could show that in the murals. If I were asked to suggest one word to Miss Milne, then I would suggest the word "peoples".

The Chairman: Of course, Mr. MacNeill, speaking as you do immediately raises a problem for this committee, because in the selection of a theme for stained glass, it seems to me that we must keep in mind the possibility that ultimately those pictures may go and be replaced perhaps by murals. It may well be that the people at that time may only suggest a gallery, but we may want to say that we do not think that the gallery should go in, and perhaps the television substitute which is now available under proper arrangements is the kind of recommendation that we would make. I think we should note in our record the fact that we should think about this when we are preparing a report, but if we are going to select a theme for windows, we should not have a conflict with what will ultimately be done if murals go in.

Mr. MacNeill: That is right. May I add something about that? Going back in memory, on one occasion, and I just cannot remember the date, Mr. Mackenzie King came over here, he had some ideas and he wanted to take those pictures out. They were taken down and some other types of pictures were brought up from the National Art Gallery and placed around the walls. Then everybody went in there and had a look at them and said, "Out with them all. We do not want that at all. We do not want to make this an art gallery." It really did not look very good. You would not like it, I am sure, Miss Milne.

Senator Fergusson: In Mexico they have the most wonderful murals, that tell the history of the country. They are just tremendous. Perhaps something like that type of thing would be suitable.

Mr. MacNeill: That is the type of thing, yes.

The Chairman: That is very stark stuff, is it not? You mean down in the National Palace? It is terribly dramatic.

Senator Fergusson: Yes, and you just start right into the history of Mexico when you look at them.

Mr. MacNeill: I think, if you do that, and you have, "Peoples united to build Canada," that that would be very good.