

plines could be achieved far more readily than with elected representatives. This option would seem more productive, for the time being, than that of an elected Senate, which requires further definition.

Before concluding my speech, I would like to draw your attention as well to a number of internal reforms that would be desirable in order to enhance representation, effectiveness and co-operation in this chamber. I have a few proposals which I would like to share with you, without going into any great detail:

1—I would be in favour of changing the distribution of seats, which could be arranged as follows, for instance:

- 28 for the four Atlantic provinces;
- 28 for the four Western provinces;
- 24 for Ontario;
- 24 for Quebec;
- 8 for the territories;

For a total of 112 seats, which I think should be a maximum.

This distribution would be the equivalent of 43 per cent of the seats for 59 per cent of the population, as concentrated in the central provinces, and 57 per cent of the seats for 41 per cent of the population, as concentrated in the remaining provinces and territories.

2—In a chamber that would be complementary and non-competitive, I suggest we have only a suspensive veto and that all bills passed on second reading in the House of Commons be referred at this stage to one of the standing committees of the Senate.

3—I am in favour of the following:

- (a) That the agenda for the sittings of the Senate should be subject to a calendar determined several months in advance;
- (b) that the compulsory retirement age for a member of an appointed Senate should be reduced back to 70;
- (c) that an appointed senator's initial term would be for fifteen years, renewable by an ad hoc committee for five years at a time;
- (d) that any member who fails to attend a committee meeting or any general sitting would incur a severe financial penalty, except in case of illness;
- (e) that the government should involve members of the Senate more frequently in its inquiries, commissions and special committees;
- (f) that the government should submit certain senior appointments for approval by the Senate;
- (g) that the Speaker of the Senate and the Deputy Speaker should be elected by their colleagues, by secret ballot;
- (h) that the Clerk and the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod should be chosen by the Committee on Internal Economy, Budgets and Administration or one of its sub-committees.

[Senator Molgat.]

Briefly, honourable senators, I challenge the political precept that an elected Senate would be more effective and would better reflect the fundamental role of an upper chamber that is complementary to and does not compete with the House of Commons.

I believe that without a drastic reform of the whole parliamentary system, an elected Senate would create more problems than it would solve.

On the other hand, a substantial reform of the nominating procedure might prove extremely beneficial in a transition period. A systematic review of our internal operations would considerably improve the effectiveness of this chamber.

Since this interesting but in my opinion somewhat belated debate originates from a motion by Senator Molgat, my conclusion will be as follows: I am in favour of Senate reform, I am in favour of the Senate having enough members and powers so that it adequately represents Canadians across this country, but I am against the compulsory election of all its members.

In the circumstances, I must vote against the Senator's motion.

● (1220)

[English]

**Senator Gigantès:** I would like to adjourn the debate in my name.

**The Chairman:** It is moved by Senator Gigantès, seconded by Senator Molgat, that the debate be adjourned. Do we have approval? Thank you.

**Senator Roblin:** If the committee approves that motion, which I take it it does, and no one else wishes to speak on this subject at the present time, I move that the chairman report progress and that we sit again.

**Senator Molgat:** Agreed.

**The Chairman:** It is moved by Senator Roblin that the Chair do now report and ask leave to sit again. Do we have approval?

**Hon. Senators:** Agreed.

**The Hon. the Speaker pro tempore:** Honourable senators, the sitting of the Senate is resumed.

#### REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

**Hon. Brenda M. Robertson:** Honourable senators, the Committee of the Whole, to which was referred the motion of the Honourable Senator Molgat respecting an elected Senate, has considered the motion, made some progress, and asks leave to sit again.

**The Hon. the Speaker pro tempore:** Honourable senators, when shall this committee have leave to sit again?