

I have sat in this chamber day after day, having regard occasionally to the galleries at both ends, and have seen very few in the visitors' gallery, and an almost complete absence of the gentlemen of the Fourth Estate who inform the people of Canada as to what goes on in this capital city. I wondered why. Without meaning to assess blame, my conclusion was this, that possibly, and probably, the fault rested with the Senate itself, largely because it has never endeavoured to secure a measure of the public relations that this great body is entitled to.

So I venture today to propose or to suggest that we of this body should seriously consider setting up a committee on public relations. I know it would have to be an unofficial body; but the good that it could do is beyond my power to describe. It would be able, for example, to convey to the people of Canada the mission of the Senate, the part that it plays in the public administrative process of Canada, and to properly inform the people of this country, not too many of whom read *Who's Who* or similar publications, as to the personnel that occupies the seats in this august assembly. I urge very seriously upon the Senate the advisability of setting up a committee of the sort to which I have just referred.

I am reminded too of something that to me, and to many here, is of particular importance. For the first time since Confederation the Atlantic provinces have a majority representation in a federal legislature. Whereas each of the great provinces of Quebec and Ontario is restricted to representation by 24 senators and the four great western provinces combined are limited to the same number, the four Atlantic provinces are entitled to a total of 30 senators. I think that imposes upon those of us who come from the Atlantic region a very definite duty and responsibility. Some time in the future I shall hope to discuss that matter more fully and, perhaps, point to the manner in which this representation can be made effective for the benefit of the people of that region.

I have no right to speak for Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island or New Brunswick, for there are men and women in this chamber more competent than I to discuss the aims, the responsibilities and the rights of those provinces. I will perhaps be pardoned, then, if I confine my remarks almost exclusively to matters concerning the little province in which I was born, Nova Scotia. I hope that you will grant me this privilege and that at the same time you will not think that this is a partisan or sectional speech or that it smacks of wailing and lamentation, for that is not my purpose nor my intention. My sole

purpose and intention is to say a few words for my section of this great country where, as is generally known, the economy is not up to the standard of the average Canadian economy.

Let me say, then, as kindly but as firmly as possible, that Nova Scotia and Nova Scotians are not looking for charity. They are not looking for anything they do not deserve, and if I am, as I am, a poor spokesman for that delightful province, you will at least concede me that its people are not looking for anything that is not justly deserved. The people of Nova Scotia are, in the main, as competent and as industrious as any other people in Canada. If they have suffered more acutely than others because of their partnership in the Canadian Confederacy it has not in any degree made them less proud of their Canadianism; for search as you will throughout the length and breadth of this country you will not find many people with a greater concept of nationhood than you will find on the little peninsula that I call home.

If, on occasion, we lift our voices to complain of existing inequities and to suggest remedies which will enable us to participate more fully in the nationhood of Canada, it is because we believe the Canadian people desire us to share more fully in the national growth of this country, and also because we believe that the stronger we in Nova Scotia become in the economic sense—and what applies to us, applies also to the other less well-off provinces—the greater the Canada of the future will be.

Honourable senators, lately we have heard a great deal and read just as much about the preliminary report of the Royal Commission on Canada's Economic Prospects. Like all such documents, it has evoked praise and criticism. I admit quite freely that my own reaction to it is one of mixed feelings. However, I question the ability of mere men to peer into the future.

**Hon. Mr. Reid:** Hear, hear.

**Hon. Mr. Connolly (Halifax North):** There are no gods among us, and, as we all know, there has not been a prophet upon the face of the earth for many centuries past. However, certain evidences of faith in that fallacy are perhaps somewhat offset by the reasoned logic of other sections of the report, and we would be wise, I think, to reserve full judgment until the complete report has been laid before us.

The references to the Atlantic region, however, are such that no one from that section of Canada can afford to pass them by without comment of some kind. I should like to point out that the Gordon Commission