

Speaking of caucuses, I attend caucuses, as do many other members here. Last Wednesday, a typical day, I attended the Ontario caucus from 10 until 11 o'clock; I attended the national caucus from 11 until one o'clock, and from time to time I attend caucus committees dealing with various subjects in which I am interested. At these caucus meetings we discussed the omnibus bill, conservation, immigration, estate tax, agriculture and the Commonwealth Conference. There was a great deal of valuable information there and a great deal of knowledge. There were personal contacts, and I took an opportunity, as others did, to make some contribution.

I cannot tell you what took place there because these are caucus secrets, but I can let you in on two of them if you promise not to tell.

Hon. Mr. Flynn: You do not make public your discussions on the main issues of external affairs?

Hon. Mr. Croll: From time to time we do discuss those issues just as you do in the Tory party.

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: You cannot tell us what happened about the estate tax?

Hon. Mr. Croll: Yes, we discussed the estate tax. One of our men, who discussed it with the minister, came into the caucus and gave a long, involved discussion on it, and somebody stood up and said, "Look, I do not understand what you are saying. Can you not make it any more simple?" He replied, "Yes—don't die." And that was it. We also had a discussion on agriculture, and the suggestion was made that the conservatives in the agricultural committee were holding up the proceedings because it had taken them 40 minutes to decide what was a farmer. In my ignorance, I finally said to the man, "Can you give me the definition of a farmer?" And he said, "Yes, he is a man outstanding in his field." That was the end of that. Those are all the caucus secrets I am entitled to give you at the moment.

Some Hon. Senators: Oh, oh,

Hon. Mr. Croll: The greatest strength that we have in the Senate and have had for a long time is our committees. Our committees gave us a character, a solidarity and we were blessed with chairmen of unusual ability, such as Senator Hayden. He speaks for himself and you have heard him before. As chairman of the Banking and Commerce Commit-

tee he has given it a tone that is known across the country.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Croll: We had a man named Senator Hugessen—we called him "Hugie". He was born a gentleman, but he improved on that—he looked after the Transport and Communications Committee. Whenever we were in any difficulty at all we tossed our problem to one or other of the committees and it was always attended to. Senator Leonard who is the salt of the earth, took responsibility when no one else would and did the donkey work. When Senator Thorvaldson was chairman of a committee he was not quite as biased or as much of a Tory as he usually is, and he discharged his responsibility exceedingly well.

Senator Roebuck did a grand job on the committee which he handled for many years—and I will have something to say about that committee later.

We were all so very fortunate. Senator Ross Macdonald and Senator John Connolly gave us an unusual kind of leadership, the kind that traded loyalty for loyalty, with the result that we were able to accomplish a great deal. I say this, Mr. Leader, I am sure that you have the qualifications, and I am sure that you will, in time, be able to fit in; but it is a different kind of leadership from that of the House of Commons. In the House of Commons a man is appointed Prime Minister and at the same time he is almost anointed; in this house you are only appointed. We have to do the anointing—it takes a little time, and you have to earn it.

Honourable senators, let me continue and let me speak of the men of another day, when we are discussing the Senate. We have Senator Gouin and Senator Aseltine and Senator Isnor, Senator Kinley and Senator Burchill—these are men of another day, who gave this Senate tone and character, confidence and guidance—and yet even in this day they adorn the chamber and they make their contribution. That ought to be a lesson to the younger people, that they should participate more than they do in matters affecting the chamber.

Honourable senators, I spoke about the strength of this chamber, which is the committee aspect. We hear witnesses, we question them, we do not wait for the minister to obtain his answer from someone who sits in front of him. We questioned the people who had the information and who carried the responsibility. We made amendments to bills