

that the membership of the Transport Committee be not reduced this session is made because of the proposed legislation mentioned in the Speech from the Throne. I am, of course, not at all suggesting what attitude anyone should take towards the measures when they come before us. There will be opportunity to deal with them at that time.

I am disappointed that we are not going to have a joint committee of both houses on the Transport Bill, but I do think that if it is at all possible there should be a joint committee on the radio and television matters.

Hon. Gray Turgeon: Honourable senators, I had not intended to speak in this debate until I listened to the remarks of our colleague from Ottawa (Hon. Mr. Lambert). The leader of the opposition (Hon. Mr. Haig), the senator from New Westminster (Hon. Mr. Reid) and others have recommended that the Senate should more often consider bills in Committee of the whole. When this motion, which would reduce the membership of some committees to seventeen, has been agreed to, I think the Rules of the Senate should be changed to enable senators, if they wish, to meet in Committee of the Whole to consider reports from committees, particularly those from committees whose membership has been limited.

Hon. Mr. Euler: We do not need a rule for that.

Hon. Mr. Haig: That is the rule now.

Hon. Mr. Turgeon: Then we should be particular to see that it is done.

It has been said that senators who do not belong to a committee may attend its hearing and participate in the debate, but may not vote.

Hon. Mr. Euler: That is the rule now.

Hon. Mr. Turgeon: Naturally, quite a few senators do not attend meetings of committees of which they are not members because of their inability to vote.

In a committee of seventeen members the majority in favour of a report is bound to be small; it cannot be more than seventeen, and may be only nine or ten. It seems to me that if the Senate made it a rule of practice to receive reports of committees, particularly those of the smaller committees, in Committee of the Whole, we would then all have the opportunity to cast our vote or to take part in the debate in this chamber.

The honourable senior senator from Ottawa (Hon. Mr. Lambert) has pointed out that a great many recommendations heard by the Royal Commission on Transportation were representative of geographical areas in

Canada. To a large extent that is true of the proceedings of the Senate, because its membership is based on geographical divisions rather than on population or political doctrine or affiliation.

My friend from Ottawa spoke particularly of the Committee on Transport and Communications and the committee having to do with the Massey report. When these committees make their reports, all senators should be given an opportunity to discuss the matters in question in Committee of the Whole. In that way we will hear representations from the various geographical areas, and each senator may register his vote if he wishes to do so.

I wish to compliment the honourable senator who has just spoken upon the tenor of his speech, and to join with those who have suggested that we should consider reports in Committee of the Whole, particularly reports of the proposed smaller committees.

Hon. Gordon B. Isnor: Honourable senators, perhaps I may be permitted to express my thoughts briefly, notwithstanding the fact that they differ from those expressed by the brilliant senator from Toronto (Hon. Mr. Hayden). Naturally, that honourable gentleman, with his legal qualifications, is more or less of a guide to me in many matters; but I feel that neither he nor I may be entirely wrong in our approach to this subject.

The introduction of this motion by the leader of the government impressed me very much, and I felt that when I had an opportunity I should compliment him on having carried forward from last session the thought that the Senate should exert greater effort in the interests of the people of Canada. The streamlining of the committees by reducing their membership from fifty or thereabouts to seventeen, and placing on such committees senators particularly interested in the subjects to be referred to them, should bring about the results that the leader desires.

I should like to remind the honourable senator from Toronto (Hon. Mr. Hayden) that most men today have specialized branches of activity, such as he has in his own profession. For instance, when one went into a classroom a few years ago he saw from forty-five to sixty pupils. Today, modern schools have considerably reduced classes, the simple reason being that they can give more concentrated study to the subject before them. I think that illustration demonstrates better reasoning than the argument advanced by my honourable friend, for it, as was said by the honourable senator from New Westminster (Hon. Mr. Reid), could be used in support of either side of the question.