

presented by the chairman, Senator Molson. It was my privilege to be one of those who served on this committee, and I found the work to be most interesting. The chairman and the staff worked hard, and most intelligently. They have all our respect, and have won our gratitude for what was accomplished in a relatively short time. I offer my congratulations to the chairman and the staff for the excellence of their work. They assured a thorough study of the rules, and the wants and necessities in respect to improving and expanding the work of the Senate in a more demanding Canada. The results are seen in the clear and constructive recommendations that are tabled in the Senate for its consideration.

Being a member of this committee was a most rewarding experience for every senator who had that privilege. The absence of a minority report, and the unanimous approval of this report and its consequential recommendations by the committee members, will, I am sure, be noted with satisfaction by all honourable senators. Having been a member of this house only since 1966, I was impressed by the discussion and the observations made when we sat as a Committee of the Whole.

One hundred and one years ago Canada underwent parliamentary surgery, so to speak, and had its great governmental reforms, which gave birth to our present House of Commons and Senate. At that time it was a most daring step, and approval of it was far from unanimous. We recall here the historical opposition to our Constitution made by over 20 members of Parliament who fought well, and sometimes savagely, and who carried their protests by way of petition to the Queen. The people at that time were indeed restless. I do not want to recount here the happenings of those few years, but it was a most daring step, even though the majority thought it was a most necessary one. The boldness of those who served Canada then has paid handsome dividends. Notwithstanding the extreme departure from its past at that time, the Constitution has served Canada notably, and all Canadians famously.

Historically, regardless of the severe criticism we are inclined to make at the present time, we have never known Canada so united, so progressive, and so ready and willing to improve the future of all its citizens. When we compare Canada with other well-administered and well-governed nations we must take pride in what has been achieved here, and

what has so far been the result of the Canadian challenge. As we look into the future we see it becoming more thrilling and challenging.

We must welcome our present opportunities. We have a unique occasion to prepare for the realization of a truly smooth-running and streamlined Senate, which is capable of gathering basic government information and of influencing policies in so many important social, economic, and scientific fields that will short-cut the roads of the future, and secure the rapid advancement of Canada amongst the major nations of the earth. It should be less a matter of acquired prestige and pride amongst nations than the vivid giving of example of what should become common acceptance by all for their betterment.

Following the present trend, our Canada doubles its population every 35 years or so. By its second centennial, 2068, Canada should have a population of some 165 million, computing it on that basis. It is important that each should in his own field prepare what will be the best available system of government to meet the situation realistically. It is my belief that what we have before us is important, but it is in no way sufficient for the government of the future, and surely not for the next century. I am of the opinion that we should review and re-adapt ourselves and our governmental structures and working at least every 15 or 20 years and consider neither specific or necessary amendments in between. I believe this will become even more evident as our population increases and there are advances in social and economic development.

There are some who would fear changes, who believe that traditional and never-changing ways, rules and guidelines would serve us better. On reading history, witnessing so many fundamental changes in our lifetime, and observing the phenomenal advances in education, in all sciences and all fields of endeavour and achievement, I could not in a multiplied Canada within the smaller world support a position of stagnation in the name of stability.

I concede that fundamental changes must be undertaken with care and prudence. Having participated in a small and humble way in the work of the special committee, I believe that the recommendations made pass the test of whether they are an improvement over what we presently have. Furthermore, I am of opinion that an assurance should be