

those rights is a function the Senate can perform. Parliament is so constituted—and I think this was part of the plan of those who conceived Confederation—that the Senate is the guardian of minority rights in Canada; it is also a place for review and appreciation. That, I think, is perhaps the principal function of the Senate. That function should be invoked for the maintenance of freedom, stability and true progress.

The field of research is important, perhaps more important today than at any time in the history of the world. As I said, senators are trained and practical men in the science of politics. I believe they are qualified to constitute an active council for political research. In fact, that has been demonstrated many times. When I was a member of another place I used to visit Senate committees, and I want to say that I was always greatly impressed with their dignity and decorum, and with the ability and experience of their members as shown by the way in which they conducted their affairs. I have in mind particularly the Special Railway Committee, which did good service some years ago under the joint chairmanship of two senators.

I listened with interest on Wednesday to the honourable senator from Lincoln (Hon. Mr. Bench), who I believe has made a study of the functions of the Senate and is an authority on that subject. I do not know how far he goes with regard to what may be called innovations by the Senate. As I recall it, my summons to the Senate said that I was being called for assistance and advice. It seems to me that while it is well that we are able to introduce legislation in the Senate, nothing should be done to impair our function as reviewers and appraisers of legislation which is introduced in another place. Senators should, I think, keep well informed, in order to be in a position to review matters coming before them. In my opinion, we should not try in any special way to keep busy doing things that we are not expected to do; we ought to be a body of well informed men and women, equipped to exercise good judgment in the interest of stability and true progress.

I want to congratulate the newly appointed Speaker of the Senate. His Honour is an old and distinguished parliamentarian, whose record of service and achievement could well be referred to as showing the best qualifications for a senator. He has for many years given political service in provincial and federal fields. Prior to his present appointment he was, as we know, Government leader in the Senate. He is a distinguished member of the medical profession. The fact that his real

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home is in the Maritime Provinces will, I think, add lustre to his reputation as a great Canadian.

Hon. Mr. HAIG: There is some question about that.

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: No. Carried.

Hon. Mr. KINLEY: I also wish to congratulate the new leader on the Government side (Hon. Mr. Robertson). He also is a Maritimer and a Nova Scotian, and that comes closer home. He and I were colleagues, serving together in the legislature of our province, and he has long been my friend and neighbour. He comes from an old Liberal family which has been active and honoured in the political service of Nova Scotia. His father was a speaker of the legislature, and a brother is now a judge. His family were free-traders, and now that free trade seems to be one of our hopes for the future, I have no doubt that my honourable friend will be in his element as leader of the Government in this Chamber.

There has also been a change in the leadership of the Conservative Party in the Senate. The former leader, the honourable senator from Alma (Hon. Mr. Ballantyne), I knew years ago when he was Minister of Marine and Fisheries. He was a colourful minister, and we in the Maritimes were much interested in him. He has a fine personality and great ability. But time marches on and I suppose youth must be served, so now we have as Conservative leader the honourable senator from Winnipeg (Hon. Mr. Haig), whom I wish every success. He has a big responsibility, but also a great opportunity in a forum where constructive criticism will, I am sure, find a receptive audience.

I also want to compliment the mover and the seconder of the Address. The mover (Hon. Mr. Robinson), also a Maritimer, comes from the "Garden of the Gulf", Prince Edward Island. He acquitted himself in a splendid manner, and we know that he will protect the rights of his province in this Chamber. The seconder (Hon. Mr. Dupuis) is an old associate of mine, who was long a vigorous member of the other House. Both these honourable gentlemen rose to the occasion and did a difficult job well.

The Speech from the Throne officially records the great victory for which we were so long and anxiously praying. In the words of the Prime Minister of Great Britain, the last of our enemies has been laid low.

The Speech gives thanks to Providence for our victory, and since I think the paragraph is well worth remembering I will quote it: