

This, young people object to; they find our welfare state too impersonal, unfeeling, and removed from reality. Much as it may be run by people, our society is more preoccupied with efficiency than it is conscious of people or concerned about them. This would not be so bad if governments, at least, developed a respectable degree of efficiency in their dealings with people, but most of them have not, and this Government certainly has not.

If the young people of Canada have noticed that they are being moulded by this large amorphous mass called society, they are to be commended. If they are perspicacious enough to note that society itself is being inspected, directed, and protected by an ubiquitous and overbearing central government, then they ought to be encouraged to run for office. We are in dire need of men of insight.

The young adults of this country are knowledgeable, sophisticated, and fiercely independent. They have a gift for seeing through people. Hence they are not likely to be fooled as their parents were in the last couple of general elections.

With reference to the matter of pollution, we are in full agreement with the principle of establishing a special committee of the Senate to identify the problems of environmental destruction and the setting up of structures to solve them. I understand the committee's aim would be to set out the basis for a national policy on environmental control, make recommendations for the establishment of a federal administrative body to implement the policy, and examine how provincial and territorial policy could be brought into harmony with national policy.

Here is an opportunity for us in the Senate to help the Government out of yet another sorry mess. The nucleus of the solution lies in reaching an agreement on the proper sharing of responsibilities among the federal, provincial and municipal levels of government. A more than adequate system of consultation will have to be set up among the three levels of government and it will have to be used extensively.

The Senate as well as some of its committees should play a part in the field of constitutional revision, in the field of the redistribution of legislative powers.

It should, therefore, be one of the first tasks of the new committee charged with looking into the problem of pollution to determine what responsibilities each level of government recognizes as its own. Hopefully, we

[Hon. Mr. Choquette.]

will end up with overlapping rather than with a passel of grey zones for which no one feels responsible.

Responsibility having been agreed upon, we can then move on in a co-operative fashion to the consideration of policies and solutions.

Before terminating, I should like to address myself to the subject of Senate reform. Nobody in the world has come in for more well-intentioned diagnoses of ailment and prescriptions for cure than the Senate of Canada.

The Prime Minister's White Paper on Constitutional Reform published last February had some proposals for the reform of this institution. It suggested first that the Senate:

- be reorganized so as to provide for the expression in it in a more direct and formal manner than at present of the interests of the provinces and regions of Canada.

No one would disagree that the principle of regional representation was clearly stronger in the minds of the Fathers of Confederation than any idea of giving the provinces and regions numerically proportional representation in the Senate.

Most of us here have acted little to fulfil our role as regional representatives. I suppose we felt the people in the other place were doing a fairly commendable job of that. Or maybe we felt that as senators we should rise above the tendency to defend petty regional interests. One thing is clear: the other place does not pay sufficient attention to regional and provincial interests. They are more concerned with Canada as a whole. If we follow this course, we will be indulging in a useless duplication of effort.

Therefore, I am led to conclude that the Senate's oldest *raison d'être* is also its most current—it should serve the interests of the provinces.

Since 1867, the pendulum of power has swung between federal and provincial governments. Most of the problems that needed collective action are now solved. More of the governing of the country could and should be done at the provincial level. However, it is silly to suppose that if Ottawa continued to have exclusive right to appoint senators, strong supporters of provincial autonomy would ever find a place in this hallowed chamber.

The Government's suggestion that the Senate be selected partly by the federal and partly by the provincial governments is, I believe,