

**Mr. MacNeill:** Those pictures depict the Great War, of course, and there are not many left who remember the devastation of war that those pictures show. I was fond of them in the chamber because I knew that country well. I had crawled around on it on my hands and knees, and at times I felt very close to the paving stones and buildings as the debris was flying around. But I wonder if the pictures are appropriate for the Senate chamber. There is so much violence depicted on television now. What need is there to have such pictures in front of you all the time? In my opinion, they would be better placed in a museum or war art gallery—which was a suggestion of Senator Dandurand's many years ago. Personally, I do not think the pictures should go to the National Defence Headquarters though. I feel they belong in a museum. Was there not talk some time ago of building a war museum on the hills up here?

**The Chairman:** That was an NCC proposal for a memorial.

**Mr. MacNeill:** Yes. Such a place would be ideal for those pictures and for the many other war pictures that exist in this country.

**The Chairman:** Suppose we were to adopt that idea, Mr. MacNeill, what would you suggest?

**Mr. MacNeill:** My first suggestion is that you must decide whether you want galleries on the east and west sides of the chamber. If you do, then there is no need to worry about the pictures, because they must go anyway.

**Senator Beaubien:** What is to be found behind the pictures now?

**Mr. MacNeill:** Rubble, and you could knock that out very quickly.

**Senator Beaubien:** What would the walls look like if the pictures were removed?

**Mr. MacNeill:** They would be simply unattractive blank walls. I think you would want to leave the pictures there until you decided what to do with the walls. Incidentally, I doubt if you would want a gallery on one side of the chamber without one on the other side.

**The Chairman:** Mr. MacNeill, what do you think of the idea of installing galleries only in the centre two panels on each side, rather than the full length of the east and west walls?

**Mr. MacNeill:** Certainly, if you were to do that, it would leave room for the installation of television cameras, the heavy cables and all the rest of the paraphernalia that would entail. It would be quite feasible to install booths on either side for that purpose. In fact, when the experts from the National Research Council were here studying the lighting one of them suggested doing just that, and having a third camera in the gallery at the very back, as they now have. If that were done, the cameras could be operated at any time they were needed without involving any upset of routine. Apparently that is quite feasible.

**Senator Beaubien:** Is it not true, however, that if you were to put in those little galleries the Senate would lose a certain amount of office space?

**Mr. MacNeill:** Only on the west side, because on the east side once you go through the wall you are outside. But on

the west side you would have to do away with the corridor which does give access to the offices along it.

**The Chairman:** Once you begin to think of galleries, of course the question of the use of galleries then arises. Perhaps, Mr. MacNeill, you could say something from your experience about the functions which take place in the Senate during which extra room is required.

**Mr. MacNeill:** To start with, there is the Opening of Parliament. There are few places actually to take the people who would like to attend the openings of Parliament. Again, every five years there is the installation of the Governor General. There are many people who would like to attend that ceremony, but it is usually restricted by two factors: one, that the desks of the senators are not removed; and, two, that the north and south galleries will hold relatively few people. Side galleries would certainly make more space available for that type of ceremony.

**The Chairman:** Those are rather rare functions, of course.

**Mr. MacNeill:** There is no question about that.

**The Chairman:** The one ceremony occurs every five years, but, as I understand it now, the formal openings do not take place at the beginning of each session but only at the beginning of a Parliament. There is an opening of each session, but it is not a formal opening in the sense that the senators' desk are removed and benches put in. On those occasions there is sometimes an overflow of seating capacity arranged in the lobby outside of the Senate chamber and even in the antechamber.

Perhaps you would care to say something about the number of people officially, entitled to come to these openings, and about the overcrowding that occurs at openings of Parliament.

**Mr. MacNeill:** Going back to my own experience, when I first came here, which is a long while ago, the diplomatic corps in Ottawa did not consist of any great numbers. Our Department of External Affairs at that time consisted of Sir Joseph Pope, his secretary and one or two translators. They were over in one corner of the East Block. I do not think they had more than four or five rooms. At that time the Governor General had a suite in the East Block, and when Parliament opened the only people who came here were the guests of the senators and members, the deputy ministers and very few others. There was the mayor of Ottawa, the sheriff, and so on, but it was a very restricted list compared to what we have today. We had lieutenant governors and privy councillors but there were no members of the diplomatic corps at all. But then the diplomatic corps started to grow, and I recall, the last time I had anything to do with it, we had 43 different missions, and they wanted the ambassadors and the ambassadors' wives and their unmarried daughters and secretaries and counsellors and heaven knows how many others invited. Senators were supposed to be allowed two guests each, but if they had all wanted to avail themselves of that I do not know what would have happened. The Prime Minister was supposed to have so many guests, so was the Governor General, and so were the lieutenant governors. By the time you fitted all of them in, sardines in a sardine can would be more comfortable and less crowded. To accommodate this rapid growth they did two things. First of all they cut out the deputy ministers who had traditionally been invited. Then guests were put out in the foyer. They were crowded out there and that meant there was very little room left for