

this body. Someone out there thinks it is important. With all due respect to my western colleagues, people out there think it is more important than it really is. From reading these documents emanating from the west, it would appear that a reform of the Senate would end all ills, economic, political, social and perhaps even moral—they are asking a lot in a couple of those areas.

● (1530)

I shake my head in sadness—and, when you get old, you should not get sad too often—when I think of the three Es, one of which is equality. If you make the two chambers equal, you are in trouble right there.

I will close by bestowing my blessings upon my friend, Senator MacEachen, and his party. I will advise him any time he wants consolation as to how you buttress yourself in opposition and how you endure it. I have spent most of my life losing elections and taking from the entrails the next morning the very best—we may have gained half a per cent here and two-and-a-half per cent there.

Honourable senators, I was going to quote Churchill again, but I had forgotten what Churchill said about defeat, although it is odd that a Conservative would do that. I remembered what he said about victory, but not defeat. Having looked it up today, I see that he said, "Defiance in defeat." We do not want the honourable senator opposite to be too defiant. Also, we do not want him to be disconsolate.

I have been to functions with members of the House of Commons and heard my friends in the NDP say that they are going to run the Liberals off the lot and that they will close in on them this time. In Prince Edward Island we do not have much to fear from the NDP, but I wonder if the Liberal Party will allow that to happen. I say that it won't happen, but my NDP friends say that I should not be too sure. They recall what happened in Britain when the Labour Party ran the Liberals off the lot. I remind them that there were special reasons for that happening, and they agree that there were, one of those reasons being that two people thought they should be leader. The other reason was that they were accused of being too casual with the national treasury on behalf of their friends. But I say that is only Britain.

**Some Hon. Senators:** Oh, oh.

**Senator Macquarrie:** It is a great pleasure to be here among old and new friends. I thank all honourable senators for their tolerance in this the second heavy working day of this new Parliament.

**Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear.

[*Translation*]

**Hon. Arthur Tremblay:** Honourable senators, I am pleased with this opportunity to second the motion of Senator Macquarrie, namely that this House offers its thanks to Her Excellency the Governor General for the inaugural speech she pronounced in the Senate yesterday afternoon. It is an opportunity for which I offer my sincere thanks.

Before discussing my motives, as it were, for seconding Senator Macquarrie's motion, you will understand—and you indicated as much by your applause—that I first wish to express to Senator Macquarrie my admiration for the brilliance and sometimes sarcastic humour—his last remarks were a good example—which pervaded his truly excellent speech. In the Senate, these qualities seem to come so naturally and so spontaneously, and I must say we have enjoyed their expression over the years. Whenever Senator Macquarrie speaks in this Chamber it has always been a pleasure and a privilege to be among those listening, and I am sure we could listen to him indefinitely. I wish to thank him for his speech.

I would like to join Senator Macquarrie in congratulating Senator Charbonneau on his appointment to the high office of Speaker of the Senate. Mr. Speaker, we have the profound conviction that you will bring to the exercise of your new and illustrious duties the same competence and skill you have demonstrated previously in the Senate and in your professional career.

Senator Roblin, in offering you my congratulations, I also have the feeling that in the present circumstances your task will be particularly difficult and complex. However, having watched you proceed during the past five years, I have not the slightest doubt that you will be able to perform your new duties with all the requisite dexterity. In any case, as Leader of the Government, you can count on the full co-operation of all your colleagues. The kind of co-operation, in fact, which you yourself gave your predecessor, Senator Flynn, of whom you spoke earlier in such moving and indeed very accurate terms. I have only one thing to add to what you have already said, on a personal note. I want to express my deep appreciation for the cordial and thoughtful manner in which the Senator welcomed me in this Chamber five years ago, when he guided the neophyte I was at the time, explaining the complexities of political affiliation within the parliamentary framework.

I also wish to offer my congratulations to the Leader of the Opposition. I trust that he will not find it too difficult to adapt to a situation that must be doubly unusual for him, namely, that of being in another parliamentary institution and moreover, sitting to the left instead of to the right of the Speaker.

Finally, I wish to extend a cordial welcome to the new senators who joined us yesterday. They have not only come to add to the already considerable numbers of their particular group in this Chamber but will also, through their varied experience and talents, enhance the quality of our work.

Honourable senators, change is obviously the motto of this First Session of the Thirty-third Parliament of Canada.

A change of government, of course, and a change in the political party responsible for forming that government, but although the situation is not unique, it has not been a frequent one at the federal level in this country, during the last fifty years.

What is unusual about the results of the elections on September 4, 1984, is the extent and the nature of the changes brought about in the composition of the House of Commons.