

out the duties, but he can appoint anybody he pleases for whatever reason, and he sometimes does that.

Hon. Mr. Flynn: It is only by custom that it is an appointment of the Prime Minister. There is nothing in the Constitution about that.

Hon. Mr. Croll: Customs become pretty well entrenched.

Hon. Mr. Thorvaldson: Not in law under the Constitution.

Hon. Mr. Croll: We have young men appointed to the Senate. When we talk—and I object to it and hear it much too often—as is done in the report of the ablest talent which can be attracted to the Senate, in my opinion that is a delusion, it is a myth, too often expressed without meaning.

I have lived and been around for some time and have had some experience; I have been in politics for a lifetime. I can take a cross-section of 102 people, whether they are in the House of Commons, in business, in finance, in education, in arts, or in labour, and collectively they are not more able than the people who are sitting in this house, because within this house now are the very kind of people you sometimes hear outsiders say should be here. There are in this house successful businessmen, former members of the House of Commons, financial people, educational people, and so on. As far as I am concerned, that sort of talk is just nonsense; I am not prepared to sell the Senate short.

Hon. Mr. Molson: What sort of talk does my honourable friend refer to in his last sentence?

Hon. Mr. Croll: The kind of talk that you had in your committee, and to which you gave some comfort. That is what I am objecting to.

Hon. Mr. Choquette: It is exactly what you are saying now, that this house has had the best talents in Canada, especially the well-known and much used Banking and Commerce Committee. If I understand my friend correctly, he is saying exactly what the chairman of this committee has reported.

Hon. Mr. Croll: You don't understand me correctly; that is the trouble.

Hon. Mr. Choquette: But I do.

Hon. Mr. Croll: Let me explain myself. When the committee report talks about

attracting the ablest talents, the assumption is that the ablest talent is not here. What I am saying is that when you take honourable senators as a collective body, they are as good as any you will find elsewhere in the country under any circumstances, no matter where you look.

Hon. Mr. Flynn: I suggest there is always room for improvement.

Hon. Mr. Croll: Of course, but it hardly applies to you.

When speaking of able talent, I must say that I hope it is taken in good grace. Some of the senators in this place are what we call "dogging" it. They are not carrying their weight. I shall have a little more to say about this later on. I think it is every senator's duty to make a contribution by discussing this report at the present time. They should be here.

This Senate is a political body dealing with political problems. Business of Government is politics in its purest sense. If it is not a political body then what is it? It was intended to be a political body when it was created—it was created to be a political body. Its functions are those of a political body. We are here as politicians, not as philosophers and not as presidents of universities—who are in a much worse position these days than even we are. I must say that if we do not carry out our constitutional functions, up-dated as they may be, then what reason is there for our existence? I am sure that I can find ample reason for that—and let me remind you these things happen. Take one quick look at the Legislative Council of Quebec, when it lost its political purpose, unused, unremembered, unregretted and gone, and I remind you, not a tear was shed, no rights were lost, not even an *au revoir*; they just said, "Good riddance."

An hon. Senator: They got a good pension.

Hon. Mr. Croll: In so far as I am concerned, I am not a political neuter, nor am I a political eunuch. I am an unrepentant Liberal. I do not think a lifetime of political experience has to be left on the outside door when we enter the Senate. Our best and only opportunity for service is in conjunction and co-operation with members of the House of Commons, and not as suggested in the report. We should be as close to them as butter is to bread, or perhaps you would like to put it, as icing on the cake.