

*Retirement Age for Senators*

perhaps reasonably enough, that these proposals will run into opposition in the Senate. I wonder whether the hon. Member will take off the sheep's clothing or else tell us whether he is, indeed, a sheep.

**Mr. Cameron (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** I shall be delighted to do so. I had thought that would be taken for granted. It is the salient point of the hon. Member's speech—the one point on which he did not misrepresent the New Democratic Party.

**An hon. Member:** Why does he want to keep the set-up?

**Mr. Stewart:** Give an explanation.

**Mr. Cameron (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** The implication of the hon. Member's position is that he feels there should be an appointed body which could thwart the determinations and decisions of the elected body. That is the only logical inference.

**Mr. Stewart:** May I ask the hon. gentleman if he read the sentence in my speech in which I suggest that perhaps at some future time there might be reform along the lines of the Parliament Act of 1911 as amended in 1949? I wonder if he can reconcile that statement with what he has tried to put across.

**An hon. Member:** Why not do it now?

**Mr. Stewart:** It would take too much time.

**Mr. Cameron (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** I am not trying to put across my proposition at all. I am merely drawing a logical deduction from the great emphasis which the hon. Member placed on my correct analysis of one of the basic reasons why Members of this party oppose an appointed Senate. The hon. Member did say, of course—and it was a weak obiter dictum—that possibly at some time in the future we might consider doing something along the lines of the Parliament Act of Great Britain of 1911. I would point out that even this Act was made possible only because of the peculiar constitutional position of the second chamber in Great Britain and the role of the Monarch in the second chamber. Greater difficulty might be experienced here, and now is the time to try to overcome these difficulties. So if the hon. Member for Antigonish-Guysborough (Mr. Stewart) is not opposed to the idea of the determination of the elected representatives of the people being supreme, he should be willing to give us some help

[Mr. Stewart.]

now toward achieving real results at some fairly early date.

**Mr. Stewart:** May I ask the hon. Member whether he really thinks that a bill to abolish the Senate would have much more success in the Senate than a bill to put through a modification along the lines of the Parliament Act of 1911?

**Mr. Knowles:** Mr. Lesage is trying it.

**Mr. Cameron (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** I am not a constitutional lawyer. I do not know. But I have noticed in my limited and amateur way that many constitutional barriers which appear to be immovable do fall before the weight of public opinion, and I have no doubt that the barrier which the Senate might oppose would fall in the same way.

**Mr. Stewart:** So, too, might a reform upon the 1911 lines.

**An hon. Member:** Nineteen eleven seems to be about their speed over there.

**Mr. Cameron (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** If you wish to put it that way. But I suggest the bill we are discussing today is a long way from that sort of reform. In fact, it is not a reform at all. It is an absurdity even from the pragmatic point of view of the hon. Member for Antigonish-Guysborough, whose aim is to have a body which would give an area of manoeuvre for the Prime Minister. I have some sympathy for that point of view. But I cannot see why this area of manoeuvre should find expression in a body which is theoretically, if not in practical terms, as powerful as is this chamber. This, to me, is almost an affront to democracy.

The hon. Member for Essex South (Mr. Whelan) made what I thought was a charming speech, although the quotations he gave, one from Lord Campion and the other from an unnamed Member of this House, were actually quotations in support of the N.D.P. contention that the Senate should be abolished. Lord Campion's acid comments on the Senate of Canada could lead to no other conclusion, and the hon. Member made no bones about it. He put forward the constructive suggestion that we might appoint Senators representative of various areas who could act as it were as executive assistants to Members of Parliament. He thought they should be young Senators—a wise provision—and envisaged ways in which such Senators could be most helpful. I am sorry the hon.