

Retirement Age for Senators

period from 1932 onward the Liberal Party has been given it most of the time. And when we did not get it I sat on the other side of the House in good part and did my best to deserve it again.

Mr. Orlikow: I do not know why the Minister finds it necessary to interrupt me. I cannot deny that the people of Canada have elected supporters of his party to Parliament and that they have formed the Government all these years. He only substantiates what I have said, and what I continue to say. I may think the people of Canada are making a mistake, but as long as they wish to vote that way they have a right to do so.

My point is that as long as Members of Parliament are elected the people of Canada can, if they choose, decide not to re-elect them. If this Government is in power for another couple of years it will so pack the Senate that there would need to be a government of different political complexion for 25 years before the Liberal majority in the other place would disappear. That is what I object to, because I think it is completely contrary to the whole concept of democratic government.

If Members of the Senate are not to represent the provinces from which they come, then perhaps they should represent the various groups in the community.

Mr. Stewart: This is what is called "corporatism".

Mr. Orlikow: The hon. Member for Antigonish-Guysborough can call it what he likes. I think it is an interesting and sad fact that the number of Senators who have been active in farm organizations and who can speak for the farming community of Canada is very small. I may be wrong, and I speak from memory, but the only Senator I can think of who has any right to claim he represented the farmers of Canada is a Senator from my own province, Senator Crerar. But it is a long time since the hon. Senator spoke for anybody except the corporations on whose boards he now sits. It is a long way from the leader of the Progressive Party, which had an important and useful role to play in this Parliament, to the man who makes speeches suggesting that an increase in the old age pension would weaken the moral fibre of the Canadian people. I do not know who has a better old age pension than a Senator. But that is the kind of speech the Senator from my own province makes and I do not think the people of my province are very proud of him.

I would have expected that there might have been some representatives of labour in the Senate. After all, there are some one and a quarter million workers who belong to Canadian trade unions. But none has been offered an appointment as far as I know with the exception of Mr. Jodoin, the President of the Canadian Labour Congress. The appointment may have been offered to others, but I do not know of any such cases and I know the labour movement very well. I can think of several people who are capable of making valuable contributions. There is Dr. Eugene Forsey who had a distinguished record in Canadian universities before he became research director of the Canadian Labour Congress. There is Mr. Frank Hall—

Mr. Peters: Trying to get rid of all those dissidents?

Mr. Orlikow: No, but I would suggest that with the kind of party we have in power, a year ago we might have had Mr. Hal Banks in the Senate as a representative of labour. He has lots of friends in the Liberal Party.

Mr. Pickersgill: Has the hon. Member forgotten it was several Members of his own party who recommended Mr. Hal Banks very strongly for citizenship not so long ago?

Mr. Orlikow: If the hon. gentleman wants to discuss Mr. Banks' citizenship—

Mr. Pickersgill: You raised it.

Mr. Orlikow: —I will be happy to discuss that question at the appropriate time and ask why his former colleague, the man who preceded him as Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, ignored the recommendation of his appeals board and gave Mr. Banks the status of a Canadian resident. I would be very happy to accommodate the Minister by discussing that matter at the appropriate time.

One would think that universities might well be represented in the Senate. I can think of a number of distinguished professors who could add prestige to that body—Professor Lower, Professor Underhill, Dr. Penfield—

Mr. Regan: Frank Scott.

Mr. Orlikow: The hon. Member suggests Frank Scott. I was trying to steer away from N.D.P. people because I am sure they would not accept the appointments if they were proposed.

Mr. Regan: I suggested it seriously.