

McConnells and the others had died, and I was now appealing to younger people. But they did not see the thing in the same way. I told a Liberal friend of mine about this situation—I might add that despite my Toryism, or whatever you might want to call it, I have always maintained a civilized friendship with Liberals—and he said, “Well, O’Leary, this is nonsense; write me a statement of what has happened in respect of this building, and I think I can get it before the Prime Minister.”

I wrote a 500-word statement, and I think the Prime Minister—although I said some rather severe things about him the other day—at once saw the wisdom and sense of this thing, and committed it with his benediction to the cabinet. I have no doubt my friend Senator Martin knows about this. Within three weeks after writing the statement I had word from the Department of Public Works and the National Capital Commission that they were taking over this building. I had offered it free of charge although it had cost us over \$150,000.

As I say, the Government took it over on the initiative of the Prime Minister. It passed the cabinet, and I am sure my honourable friend, Senator Martin, gave it his full support, judging by what he said. And now we have before us statutory confirmation of the taking over of this building.

This is a great thing for Canada, and a wonderful testimony to the value of our parliamentary system. In describing this residence I said that it should be the home of the Leader of Her Majesty’s Loyal Opposition as designated by Parliament; I made no distinctions. Mr. Pearson occupied it. I remember offering it to Mr. St. Laurent. Whatever our disagreements may be, there is a Canadian affection, and a Canadian support for the system which we have. Every member of this house, whether Liberal or Conservative, will agree with me that the Leader of Her Majesty’s Opposition is a part of the parliamentary structure of this country. He is paid to criticize. I thank God that we have a system of that kind. That is why I spent 20 years of my life giving much of my attention to the maintenance of this property for this purpose. The Government is now to be highly commended for placing this measure before Parliament.

Hon. John J. Connolly: Honourable senators, I had no idea that Senator O’Leary was going to speak tonight in the way he did. I think it would be most inappropriate if something were not said at this stage about him and about the contribution he has made to this project. I agree heartily with the proposal to take this property, which is generally known as Stornoway, and make it a Crown property available to the Leader of the Opposition. I think we are all truly inspired by what Senator O’Leary has said about the office of leadership of the Opposition in the House of Commons. That is the office of leadership of the first or second largest party in Parliament, depending on what the election results throw up. It is a permanent fixture in our parliamentary system and long may it remain so.

It was heartwarming to hear what Senator O’Leary said about the wisdom of the Government in taking the

[Hon. Mr. O’Leary.]

step proposed in this measure. However, that is not what I want to talk about primarily. I should like to acknowledge the devotion given this work over many, many years by Senator O’Leary. I remember hearing of it first of all from his very good friend, and mine, Senator Lambert. I heard it too from Duncan MacTavish long before he came to this house. I think one of the people interested in the original project was a former member of Parliament for this city, Frank Ahearn. I am not quite sure of that.

Hon. Mr. Martin: You are quite right.

Hon. Mr. Connolly (Ottawa West): Senator O’Leary is probably the last of the original group of people who were responsible for this project. We cannot thank all of them, although we should have done so. However, it was done so quietly that there never was an opportunity for anyone to utter words of appreciation.

Now the story has been put on our record and I think, speaking for our side of the house, and, indeed, for both sides of both houses, we should go on record as expressing our gratitude for the work of Senator O’Leary, for the initiative he took and for the years he has devoted to the management of this project of which he has truly been the body and soul.

Honourable senators, not only is Parliament indebted but this country is greatly indebted to him.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Jacques Flynn: Honourable senators, I do not intend to speak at length, but I do want at this stage to thank Senator O’Leary for having put on the record the history of Stornoway. I should also remind the house that this bill concerns the official residences and it amends the Prime Minister’s Residence Act.

It is about time that something was also done about the Prime Minister’s residence. I know that Mr. St. Laurent, who was the first to occupy 24 Sussex Drive, decided that he would have to pay something for occupying that house. That was in accordance with his temperament and also with the circumstances of the time. However, it is now time that we did something about the Prime Minister’s residence, and offer him every possible opportunity of being able to discharge his duties without imposing any burden upon him.

I object to the criticism from certain quarters that the Prime Minister may presently have some private means. That has nothing to do with the problem with which we are dealing. I am very happy that we are now doing something not only about the residence of the Leader of the Official Opposition but also that of the Prime Minister.

Motion agreed to and bill read second time.

The Hon. the Speaker: When shall this bill be read a third time?

Hon. Mr. Martin: If it were the wish of honourable senators that the bill be sent to a committee, I would