

system was. However, I can tell you that the original system allocated 65 members to Quebec, and one divided 65 into the population of Quebec and came to a unit number and decided that there should be one member for each such unit in each province. How many members there were depended on the population as ascertained in the census. I know it would work because in Nova Scotia, when we started, we had 18 members and now we have 10, and we are damned lucky. In Prince Edward Island they have four members and they have four senators. Why do they have four senators, and why do they have four members? Because the B.N.A. Act states that no province shall have fewer members than it has senators. If it were strictly representation by population, mathematically speaking practically every riding in Toronto has a bigger population than the whole Province of Prince Edward Island. But you only get one member and they get four. You may say that that is not right, but I say to you that it is right because we are a nation. We stretch from sea to sea. We are composed of all those provinces that joined together to form Canada. One of them is Prince Edward Island, and without such provinces, we would be an incomplete whole, small though they may be.

• (1530)

The population of Canada has grown. The system has changed, the unit is now different, and the distribution of seats in Canada is now different. I am told that under the system now in vogue, whatever that may be, as a result of the most recent census we are likely to increase the number of members in the House of Commons.

Senator Marshall: To over 300.

Senator Donahoe: My honourable friend says "to over 300," and I presume he is right. I do not pretend to know, but I know it is an increase. I also know that there are members of the House of Commons who say that that is an error; that we should amend the law; that we should change it so that there will be no increase; and that we have enough members now—282 or whatever the number is.

Senator Marshall: There are now 282 members.

Senator Donahoe: We do not want to get like Great Britain. We do not want to have such a large number as Great Britain that if they all show up at the same time there will not be enough seats because there are just too many of them. Incidentally, it is that kind of Parliament that is giving you your new Constitution, but I will let that go by.

To get back to what I was saying before I became side-tracked, some members of the House of Commons believe that there is a sufficient number of members now and that we should amend the law so as not to have any more. Then I come into this chamber and I find senators saying to me, "Ah, but what we should do is elect the members of the Senate!"

Senator Marshall: Shame!

Senator Donahoe: Elect them—for what?

Senator Marshall: For life!

Senator Donahoe: Elect them to have real power? Elect them to exert their will as opposed to the will of the House of Commons? No, we do not want to do that. After all, we already have an elected body.

I come from a province where we had two houses—an Executive Council and a House of Assembly—and at a certain point the same sort of situation as has happened here happened there: one party was too long in power. It had the power of appointment of the members of that house, so that when an opposite party, after 43 unbroken years, was elected it was discovered that there was not one voice—not one—in the upper house to speak in support of that elected body which the electorate of Nova Scotia had said should decide their fate and make their laws. I shall not go into it because it is a long, sad story. But when those people were recalcitrant and refused to see reason, and sometimes you can see that going on today—I am tempted to tell a story but I have been speaking for a long time—when those people would not support the government, then the province took the only course open to it and said, "We have the right of nomination. There is no limit on the number who can sit in the house. Therefore, we propose to appoint a sufficient number of councillors who will vote that we extinguish the upper house." The upper house was extinguished, and it was my party that did it. Do not think that there is anything partisan in what I am saying about this because there is not. It was my party that did it. We did away with the second house, but it is not my party that is going to do away with this second house, it is somebody else, and I will prove it to you before I am finished—and I am going to be mercifully brief for the remainder of my remarks.

If the Senate is to have neither real power nor the possibility of any, having regard to the new Constitution, and if it is to be elected only, then the function of the Senate is largely being lost. The inevitable effect of any vote taken in this house will be to demonstrate that the Senate has lost its purpose, that we are voiceless. Why bother to speak on a resolution? Suppose that by a miracle you could open the minds of those opposite you; suppose that you could persuade them that that man who sounds so foolish is talking sense and that they must support him; suppose that by a miracle that happened—it would not matter one whit or one iota because six months later the things against which you voted, the things on which you agreed with somebody else, the things on which you disagreed with those who make the laws of this country would be the laws of this country. You could say you disagreed and you could say it was wrong, or you could say any damned thing you liked about it, but when it was all over it would be the law of the country and whether you liked it or not you would be stuck with it.

Senator Marshall: Too many Liberals!

Senator Donahoe: If, on the other hand, the Senate is to have neither real power nor the possibility of any—as I suggested to you it probably will not have, if you think about the Constitution we are going to have—then, in my view, the function of the Senate, as I have already said, is largely going to be lost. The inevitable effect of any vote taken in this house, based on the Constitution of Canada, will be to demonstrate