

concerned about these matters noted that with delight and we are very grateful to him.

I was most interested in Senator MacDonald's comment about Senator Sinclair's natural talent for the Supreme Court, and with that in mind I should like to thank Senator Sinclair and extend our best wishes for his next career.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear!

Hon. Ian Sinclair: Colleagues: How sweet it is!

As someone has said, this is the end of my third career, which I have enjoyed, and I am actively pursuing a fourth one. I had to make a few adjustments when I came here; however, I should like to say to my colleagues that, surprisingly, I am the first person to have among his papers a congratulatory letter from John Diefenbaker, which I received when I was appointed the president of Canadian Pacific. Those of you who know John Diefenbaker's background know that it took a lot for him to congratulate me on anything that had to do with Canadian Pacific. I also have among my papers a kind note from Mike Wilson, whom I have known for many years; I think Canada has been blessed with having him in the position of responsibility that he has had and continues to have.

I recall the many famed upsets of Senator Flynn in this chamber. When I went to school they told me cumulus clouds did not exceed 20,000 feet. After listening to Senator Flynn it occurred to me that that was wrong, because he often went beyond 20,000.

● (2030)

I came here with the feeling that this institution was not appreciated. During the course of my other careers I appeared before committees of both the House and the Senate. I always felt that the Senate committees were better able to understand the problems we were dealing with. However, the public generally had a very poor view of the Senate. I am happy to say that I believe the Senate has a duty to carry out in the legislative process. I also think few people realize that the first time our National Finance Committee objected to the passing of an appropriations bill without the necessary preliminary work a statistical analysis indicated that the Senate had saved the country \$15 million because of our delay. Now, I tell you, you have to make some pretty broad assumptions to arrive at that number. Nevertheless—

Senator Frith: You have no problem with that!

Senator Sinclair: —I have no trouble in making those assumptions.

In any event, honourable senators, I have to say that it has been a pleasure to work in committee with Senator MacDonald. Before coming here I did not know him, but I knew of him. My good friend Cedric Ritchie, who runs the Bank of Nova Scotia, warned me about him. He said, "He'll charm you out of your shoes." Honourable senators, he has done that all his life and I am sure he will continue to do so.

As to the committee, well, I suppose you can run a committee as a democrat—

Hon. Senators: Oh! Oh!

Senator Sinclair: But I never did—I didn't know how to do it as a democrat. But, honourable senators, what we did do was to arrive at a conclusion. At one point, because of some associations I had, I could not really take part in the chairmanship of the committee as I wanted to so I went through a surrogate process involving Senator Kirby. Someone mentioned to me later that he had never known that Senator Kirby understood the Banking Committee so well until he heard him put questions before that committee, and I felt pretty good about that.

Honourable senators, we have had problems here, have we not? And we have had those problems because the process does not enable us effectively to do the job we have before us. That process has to be changed. How it is going to be changed is in the hands of other people, of course, but those who have been appointed to this chamber, in my view, have been appointed to undertake a stewardship, with all the meaning that that word conveys. Yet we cannot be stewards and we cannot make the contributions that a steward should make because of the fact that we are an appointed body somewhat out of step with the modern process—and we have to change that fact! I hope that that will happen and that the very great capabilities that are in this chamber will be able to be made manifest in the future.

Thank you so much for being kind to me in the last five years.

[Translation]

LIBRARY OF PARLIAMENT

ANNUAL REPORT OF PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARIAN TABLED

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, I have the honour to table the annual report of the Parliamentary Librarian for the fiscal year 1987-88.

[English]

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

THE ESTIMATES, 1988-89—PRIVY COUNCIL VOTE 15B—REFERRAL TO JOINT COMMITTEE—MESSAGE FROM COMMONS

The Hon. the Speaker informed the Senate that a message had been received from the House of Commons as follows:

HOUSE OF COMMONS
CANADA

Friday, December 16, 1988

ORDERED,—That Privy Council Vote 15B, for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1989 be referred to the Standing Joint Committee on Official Languages; and

That a Message be sent to the Senate to acquaint Their Honours thereof.

ATTEST