

thanks to the Trojan labours of our regular staff, and the six senior students of law whom we took on during the summer, there is an immense amount of material collected—enough, so our counsel tells me, to keep the committee busy once a week as far ahead as we can see, and certainly all through this session. So I wish to warn anyone who expects to be on that committee—and I haven't the faintest idea whether I'll be on it myself—but I wish to warn anybody who expects to be on that committee there will be plenty of work to do, and that the committee will have before it a most thorough documentation on an enormous number of orders in council and other regulations which, in the opinion of our committee staff, deserve the scrutiny of the committee, and, if the committee sees fit, the scrutiny, later, of one house or the other, or both. I wish to add only that I expect that a great deal of the work of this committee will in fact be done by the Senate members, partly because the Senate membership will probably be more stable, partly because the Senate membership will perhaps, in many instances, be much more experienced and expert in scrutinizing these things, and partly because perhaps we have rather more time to spend on a matter of this sort—and I quite agree with Senator O'Leary that it is of the most enormous importance—than the members of the Commons ordinarily have.

[Translation]

There were some matters I had decided—this afternoon—to raise tonight, but I have changed my mind.

I shall therefore limit myself to three subjects: perhaps one of them is of little consequence, which is not the case for the other two.

[English]

First of all, I want to raise the question again of the missing portrait of a former leader of this house, a dear friend of many years' standing of both Senator O'Leary and myself, and doubtless of other senators here, and leader of the party in which I was brought up and to which I returned for the years 1962 to 1967.

**Senator Walker:** Which one was that?

**Senator Forsey:** The Right Honourable Arthur Meighen.

Some 15 months ago a lunatic—I'm glad my words are privileged here, because the man might sue me, otherwise; but, well, shall I say an eccentric—burst like a bomb into the House of Commons, scattering papers and shouting loudly, and in the process of getting in there he somehow or other managed to damage very badly the portrait of Mr. Meighen, which was on the wall just outside the House of Commons chamber, and the frame of the portrait.

Last March 26 I addressed to the then Leader of the Government in this house an inquiry, about what was happening to restore this portrait, which was still missing, and I was told that the craftsmen required to do this kind of work were in very short supply, that the few who existed were extraordinarily busy, that they had a huge backlog of work but that he hoped the matter would be dealt with in due course, or words to that effect. It was March 27 that I got that answer. I went down this afternoon to refresh my memory and make sure I was not going to say something that was without foundation, and I found the portrait was still missing—the portrait of this

pre-eminent parliamentarian, probably the greatest parliamentarian this country has ever seen—

**Some Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear.

**Senator Forsey:**—and one of the very few to have distinguished himself equally in the other place and here. The portrait is still missing. I asked the people in the parliamentary library to find out for me when it was that this eccentric character burst into the House of Commons and did this damage. It was on or about June 21, 1973. Well, I don't know how few these craftsmen may be who are capable of repairing the damage. I don't know how large a backlog of work they have. But it seems to me very strange that a whole 15 months could elapse without this portrait being restored; and if the portrait had been so badly damaged that it cannot be restored, then I think the government of the country should approach the Meighen family and ask to be allowed to have a copy made of the portrait—the identical portrait—which, to the best of my recollection, is in the possession of the family in Toronto. I can't help—and here the old Tory Adam, I suppose, peeps out—I can't help suspecting, honourable senators, that if the portrait had been a portrait of Mr. Mackenzie King the repairs would have been performed with a great deal more celerity, and the portrait would months and months ago have been hanging in its accustomed place. This may be an unworthy suspicion, but I can't help feeling there may be some grounds for it, and I hope these rather bitter words will sink into the mind of the Leader of the Government, and the responsible people on the government side, and that this shocking gap on the wall over there by the other chamber will be filled, as it ought to be filled. I am really very gravely and deeply disturbed about this, and I cannot refrain from using rather—perhaps unduly—strong language about it.

I want to say something now, briefly, about this business of Senate reform.

We are to have shortly before us, I think—well, pretty soon, I suppose, anyway—a single bill on this subject; a modest bill, but a good bill; and on this I think I shall have the support of honourable gentlemen immediately to my right, because this particular bill simply embodies a proposal made by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition last session, and, I think, the session before, namely, a proposal to add two senators to this chamber representing the Yukon Territory and the Northwest Territories. So far so good. I don't think anybody is likely to object to that except possibly some people from the NDP, who think there ought not to be any senators at all, and who, when this matter came up once before, expressed themselves in most unsuitable and discourteous terms, saying—one of them—I think, that nobody in the Territories with any self-respect would accept a senatorship. I couldn't help wondering, again, in a cynical frame of mind, perhaps, whether it might not turn out that there were a number of people in the Northwest Territories who, by this test, would be lacking in self-respect and would be quite willing to accept a seat in this house. Anyway, here's this proposal. That's the only piece of legislation which so far has issued from the government on the subject of Senate reform. I think that is something all of us can accept without a tremor, and I think, indeed, with some pleasure. But the only other proposals were sketched out by the