

Retirement Age for Senators

edge very few, with the possible exception of Mr. Coldwell, were ever proposed.

In Nova Scotia, from which the hon. Member for Antigonish-Guysborough comes, there is a Conservative government. Surely if the Senators were to do a job and somebody were to represent the views of the people of Nova Scotia in keeping with the way they voted during the last few provincial elections, there might well be found a person who happens to be a Conservative and who has enough ability to grace that august other chamber. But no, so long as this Government is in power vacancies will be filled in the usual way.

Mr. Stewart: May I ask the hon. gentleman a question?

Mr. Orlikow: Certainly.

Mr. Stewart: I should like to ask him if he did not follow the argument I made, to the effect that if Senators were selected by the provincial governments or by the electors within provinces, this would enhance the power of the Senate and inevitably cause a conflict with the principle of responsible government.

Mr. Orlikow: I followed the hon. Member's argument very carefully and I agree with a great deal of it, but when he finished I had to come to the conclusion that he is against abolition. He wants the Senate to remain, but he is against giving the Senate any power. What he wants is a group of some under-people who will come to Ottawa, be appointed for life and have the power to block any legislation they desire, but who will have no real contribution to make. There is no other alternative left—

Mr. Stewart: May I ask the hon. gentleman if he will promise to read my speech?

Mr. Orlikow: Let me tell the hon. Member he is one of the few Liberal Members who I think make suggestions that are worth listening to, and I will be glad to read his speech; but the fact is that he really offered nothing to explain the old custom in this country of appointing to the Senate the kind of people who have been appointed.

• (4:10 p.m.)

Mr. Pickersgill: Would the hon. Member permit a question? I believe he served on the Winnipeg school board and in the Legislature of Manitoba before coming to this House. Is he aware that most of the Senators since Confederation have been politicians, and does

[Mr. Orlikow.]

he really think politicians are unworthy to be appointed to a legislative body?

Mr. Orlikow: Of course not. I wish the Canadian people thought as highly of those who go into politics, whether municipal, provincial or federal, as they do of some others. After all, the important decisions in this country are increasingly made by government. But I believe politicians should be elected. I know the Minister really believes the Liberal Party has a divine right to be the Government at all times. But I believe that in a democratic system people have the right—and sometimes they exercise it—to defeat Members of Parliament or members of a legislature or members of a municipal council or a school board. What I do not like about the Senate is this, particularly when I look at the kind of people who have been appointed by the party on the other side: once appointed there is no control over them.

Mr. Pickersgill: I know the hon. Member is a fair minded man and that he would not wish to misrepresent my views. He has told the House he knows—and by what process he arrived at this conclusion he did not tell us—that I believe in the divine right of the Liberal Party to rule. Let me tell him this. I believe in the right of the Liberal Party to carry on the Government of this country only when it can get a majority—and that has happened to be most of the time during the 20th century. It seems to me the hon. Member might examine his own position in this connection because the Members of his party are the ones who generally in this House, I think, give the impression that they and they alone are divinely inspired. Well, at least they cannot get elected.

Mr. Orlikow: I hope, Mr. Speaker, that you are keeping a record of these questions and interruptions and not including them in my time. I did not deliberately misrepresent the views of the Minister of Transport and I do not think that what I said is really different from what he said. He simply put it differently. He thinks that nearly always, or most of the time anyway, the Liberal Party deserves the support of the people.

Mr. Pickersgill: Once again, the hon. Member has totally distorted my meaning. I said they had got that support. I did not say whether they had deserved it or not, I said they had got it. But it is an historical fact that since the C.C.F. Party was founded in 1932 they have never been able to secure the confidence of Canadians and that during the