

be sacrosanct from such influences. But it is important to remember that Canada is a new country.

It is only a few generations removed from the frontier. It is a land where enterprise and initiative should be encouraged. The phrase "the free enterprise system" may mean too much, but the encouragement of initiative consistent with the public welfare must be an important goal for Government and for Parliament. It is important, I think, for both legislative branches of Parliament to contain people who are in touch with Government policy and trends in legislation in these important aspects of our national life to which I have just alluded.

In the Senate we have had leaders of the Government who were of the ministry. We have also had leaders of the Government who were not. We have had periods in which there was no member of the Government in this chamber. In the House of Lords there is a much wider contact with the Government through ministers of state, under-secretaries, and, indeed, ministers with portfolios at times. I think it is to the advantage of that chamber that this is so; but it may be too much to claim that as much Government representation even proportionately is required here. I think, however, it is helpful for the Senate to have at least one minister.

But there is also another aspect. A senator who is sworn of the Privy Council is bound by the principle of cabinet solidarity. As such, he shares responsibility for Government decisions and Government policy, and he must defend both as required; but he is also a senator with all the attributes and all the independence which his status implies. To reconcile the two, to strike a reasonable balance without impaling himself on either horn of the dilemma, if there is one, requires the exercise of judgment. I ask for the help of all honourable senators as I undertake this exercise.

Of special concern to this honourable house, of course, is the proposal in the Speech from the Throne to provide for a retiring age for members of the Senate. This is not the time to discuss details of substance or of procedure. Perhaps it would be helpful, however, if I were to indicate some aspects of the plan. It is thought that newly-appointed senators should retire, as judges do, upon attaining their seventy-fifth birthday, and that upon retirement they should receive a pension to which they would contribute. This pension will probably be comparable in amount to the pension available to a retired member of the House of Commons. For senators appointed for life, there will be an option to retire on or after their seventy-fifth birthday, with an appropriate pension.

It is not my intention to discuss in detail now the work of the session forecast in the Speech from the Throne. Honourable senators who participate in this debate will, no doubt, as the Leader of the Opposition indicated, cover much of that ground. I hope the debate will move along steadily to a conclusion within the next few weeks. I hope also that many honourable senators will take part in it.

In addition, as each bill reaches us, we will have a general discussion on second reading. Again, at the committee stage I know that each bill will be subjected to the close scrutiny of both principle and of draftsmanship, for which our committees are noted. As I have already stated, the forum we provide here is unique. It is the safety valve of the Parliamentary system—and the work is performed at its best in an objective and detached way.

I should tell the house that as of the opening day of this session, nearly a dozen private bills were ready for presentation. With a view to the efficient use of parliamentary time, the Senate will also initiate a considerable number of public bills. Those with financial implications cannot, of course, start here, and there are other measures without financial implications but which are more appropriate for introduction in the other place. The public bills we introduce and those which will come to us from the House of Commons will provide a very full program for the session.

In addition, some of our committees I hope will be engaged upon the special study to which I have already alluded. All in all, this session should be an interesting and a busy one. But when our work is up to date, I think, following the traditional practice of the Senate, we should adjourn if the schedule in the other branch of Parliament falls behind; but the emphasis will be upon the efficient dispatch of the business before us, and not upon adjournments.

**Hon. Mr. Hnatyshyn:** Hear, hear.

**Hon. Mr. Connolly (Ottawa West):** The Speech from the Throne is traditionally an instrument to outline the general policy of the Government and to set up an immediate work plan for a new session of Parliament. This Speech contemplates in the international field a Canadian policy to promote peace through the most effective agencies organized by the nations of the world for that purpose. We will continue to do our utmost to assist the prevention of the outbreak of war and to provide personnel and facilities to strengthen the deterrents.

The Speech reaffirms the proposition that the defence policy of Canada should be geared to the strategic requirements of the NATO