

what Ontario gave. Just tell me what they gave. I can tell you what Saskatchewan, Alberta and Manitoba gave. They gave away their representation in the House of Commons and they gave away an effective Senate. That is what they gave. They gave Quebec or are giving Quebec in perpetuity 25 per cent of the votes in the House of Commons even if British Columbia is going to have a greater population in the future. That is what we have to go back and tell the people of Saskatchewan. "Yes, everybody gave a little; but, no, the other provinces, Ontario and Quebec, did not give a little."

The Atlantic provinces gave a little. I will tell you how little they gave. They gave Ontario and Quebec additional seats in the House of Commons. The extra seats given to Ontario and Quebec number more than the Atlantic Provinces presently have. Yet they say, "That is fine. We will accept that. That is a fair ball game."

Really, we use the expression that Ontario and Quebec have "sucked the hind tit" all these years anyway. It is not Saskatchewan and Alberta that have done that. It is not a question of our having done that. No, it is Ontario that has been so hard done by all of these years; so let us make it just a little bit better for them.

I can understand why Getty went home and within a few days of getting home, and of telling his people, "We got what we wanted," announced his resignation as leader of the party. I can understand that. How do you sell the people of Alberta on this issue?

I am going to vote "no" when the vote comes, and I am going to say this: I think the Conservative party in this country, the Liberal party in this country, and the NDP in this country have betrayed Western Canada. I think the voice that is there is betrayal. That is a fact. That is what happened. We shrug our shoulders and say, "Let's give tacit approval to this referendum and let's con the Canadian people into saying 'yes.' We will decide later how we are going to divide up the spoils."

The vote is going to go through today. Obviously, we all know that. However, I do not think the vote is going to go through when the time comes for the referendum vote, because I can see that ground swell moving in British Columbia, Alberta and in Saskatchewan. I can see that ground swell, and I would not be afraid of what might happen after there is a "no" vote.

I will tell you this: We are not afraid of Canada breaking up because of this particular issue.

• (1810)

Remember, honourable senators, what we have done in this country. In 115 years—not 125 but in 115, and the last 10 years have been the pits—with about 16 million people in this country, on average, we have built the greatest country in the world. In fact, we had the second highest standard of living in the world. We did that because we were proud Canadians and we had equal provinces all across this country.

[Senator Sparrow.]

Do you know what we did, honourable senators? Paul Martin was one of the architects of this. We built the second highest standard of living in the world. We brought the poor people farther up the scale, and closer to being equal to all of us in the economic structure. We are rapidly losing that, and we will lose it much faster if we give an even greater power base to Ontario and Quebec.

Canadians asked for free trade among our own provinces. That is not even referred to in the agreement that is before us. If Ontario wants to keep the products of Saskatchewan out of its province, it can still do that, and it may. We cannot have that. That was but one of the items we asked for, and we are not getting it.

This agreement is not a good deal for Western Canada. I will tell anyone I see that it is not a good deal for Saskatchewan. I do not want Quebec to leave Canada. I do not think she will. But the issue in this case will not make any difference as to whether she leaves or does not.

The Hon. the Acting Speaker: Honourable senators, it is now 6 p.m. The rules require that the Speaker vacate the Chair until 8 p.m., unless it is the wish of honourable senators to ignore the clock.

Senator Lynch-Staunton: I ask leave to ignore the clock and continue the proceedings.

Senator Molgat: I gather from the numbers who have indicated they still want to participate in the debate that we can probably conclude our work within a reasonable time tonight, rather than having to return later.

The Hon. the Acting Speaker: Is it agreed, honourable senators?

Hon. Senators: Agreed.

Hon. Dan Hays: Honourable senators, I should like to participate in this debate. I do not intend to take long.

Western Canada is a part of this country that will be affected most profoundly by some of the issues dealt with in the constitutional initiative that we are being asked to vote on today. Whether we want to or not, we will be involved in the referendum campaign. Thus, we should develop a position.

I last spoke on this subject in debate on the question concerning the Beaudoin-Dobbie report. I gave a rather lengthy speech on Senate reform in which I used the Australian Senate as a basis for comparison. I did so because I think the Australian situation is relevant to ours. It is a parliamentary democracy that has an elected Senate which is playing a significant legislative role in that country. I felt that that was a good starting point for us.

First, I should like to make a few comments on the process. I can dispose of that briefly by saying that I am glad we will be having a referendum. I would vote in favour of the idea of a referendum. I have listened to those, in particular Senator Stewart, who have reservations. I identify with his concerns