

CPA Activities

The Canadian Scene

Twelfth Canadian Regional Seminar



Delegates from the Senate, House of Commons, nine provinces and both territories met in Toronto from November 23 to 25 for the annual CPA regional seminar. Legislators from the various jurisdictions discussed four subjects of mutual interest.

The first panel considered the question of "Coping With Large Majorities," a frequent occurrence in Canadian assemblies. The session was chaired by **Hugh Edighoffer**, Speaker of the Ontario Legislature. Panelist included **Lloyd Crouse**, from the House of Commons, **Frank Branch** Speaker designate of New Brunswick, **Charles Beer** of the Ontario Legislative Assembly and Professor **Desmond Morton** of the University of Toronto.

Much of the discussion dealt with whether private members on the government side can and should speak out in opposition to government policies. Several speakers noted that size was not necessarily a problem for the opposition and some very effective opposition parties consisted of no more than a handful of members. The idea of proportional representation was also discussed as a means of avoiding large majorities but it did not obtain much support. Most speakers felt it would

replace one problem with other potentially more dangerous ones.

The second panel was called "Full-time House, Part-time Member?" The panel was chaired by Speaker **Patrick McNicholas** of Newfoundland and included **Don Cousens** of the Ontario Legislative Assembly, **Terry Huberts** of British Columbia and **Donald C. Macdonald** former member of the Ontario Assembly. Aside from obvious differences related to the size of the legislature and the number of days sitting a number of similarities emerged from the discussion. For one thing it was agreed that regardless of whether a member holds another job or not constituents expect their member to be full time. The issue is also related to the rate of remuneration. While some members thought legislators were underpaid for the number of hours they put in, others thought the financial rewards were generous enough.

Another panel considered the question of "Television in Legislatures" and whether it serves a persuader or an educator. The panel was chaired by **Jean Poirier** of Ontario and included **Arnold Tusa**, Speaker of the Saskatchewan Legislature, **Mike Breough** of Ontario, Professor **Michael Nolan** of the University of Western Ontario and **Jean-Pierre Jolivet** of Quebec. There was general agreement

that television had changed the way legislatures operate but less agreement as to whether these changes are cosmetic or fundamental in nature.

The last panel considered the Meech Lake Accord and particularly the role of legislators under the proposed new constitution. Panelists included Professor **Deborah Coyne**, of the University of Toronto, **Stan Darling** of the House of Commons, **Jean Pierre Bellisle** of the Quebec National Assembly, **William Remnant**, Clerk of the Manitoba Legislative Assembly and **Tony Penikett**, Government Leader in the Yukon.

Many arguments for and against the Meech Lake Accord were raised by panelist but most of the discussion centred around conditions for the admission of new provinces and whether the Accord should be reopened to give a voice to northerners in future constitutional amendments. Several delegates called for a special CPA conference of parliamentarians to give further consideration to the Accord .

Future issues of the Review will include articles based on discussions at this seminar.

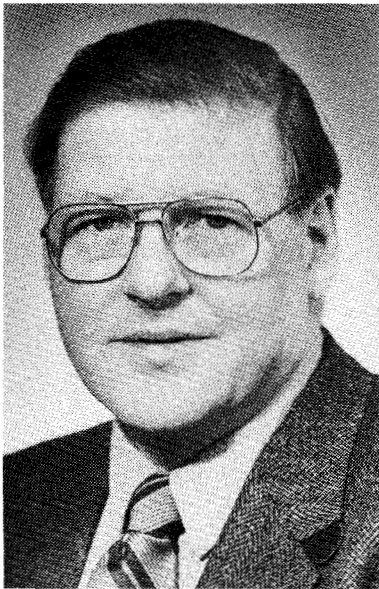


People

New Speaker

The new Speaker of the Northwest Territories is Red Pedersen. Born in Denmark in 1935, Mr. Pedersen moved to the Canadian Arctic in 1953 when he joined the Hudson Bay Company. In 1963, he joined the Federal government and served as area administrator in Coppermine, Pangnirtung and Fort Rae, NWT. He returned to Coppermine in 1969 and helped to organize the first settlement council.

First elected to the Assembly in 1983 he served as Minister of Culture and Communications from 1985 to 1986 and subsequently served as Minister of Renewable Resources, Personnel and Status of Women during the last assembly.



Red Pedersen

He resides in Coppermine where he was active on the settlement council and other community organizations for many years.

By-Elections

Two provincial by-elections were held on September 14; one in Prince Edward Island the other in Quebec.

In Montreal Liberal **Harold Thuringer** won the seat of Notre Dame de Grace formerly held by **Reed Scowen** who was appointed Quebec Agent General in London.

Mr. Thuringer, a social administrator defeated his closest opponent, New Democratic Party candidate **Hélène Guay**, by a margin of more than 2-1. The Parti Québécois candidate **Sebastien**

Richard placed third. The victory by Mr. Thuringer, 54, was not unexpected. The riding has voted



Richard Thuringer



Nancy Guptill celebrating victory with her daughter (credit)

Liberal ever since it was created in 1939, and Mr. Scowen won by 18,000 votes in the 1985 provincial election.

In Prince Edward Island the result was less predictable. Liberal candidate **Nancy Guptill**, a Summerside Town councillor took nearly 50% of the vote in taking Prince 5th from the Conservatives who had held it for more than ten years.

The New Democratic Party also made an impressive showing by coming in second, the first time in Island history an NDP candidate had finished ahead of either of the established parties.

Mrs. Guptill becomes the fourth female member of the thirty-two seat legislature. The Liberals now hold twenty-two seats compared to ten for the Conservatives.

Appointments

On October 22 Dr. J.-Aubin Dorion was appointed Clerk of the Legislative Assembly. Dr. Dorion 55, attended local schools and then took dentistry at the University of



Montreal. He maintained a dentistry practice in Summerside until his appointment as Lieutenant-Governor of Prince

Edward Island in 1980. Since then he has been a Member of the War Veterans Allowance Board, Department of Veterans Affairs. He has always been interested in Acadian affairs serving as founding President and Chairman of the Acadian Mardi Gras Committee and a charter member and President of the Acadian Museum Association.

Resignations and Retirements

On November 10, 1987, **Pierre Marc Johnson** resigned as leader of the Parti Québécois and member for Anjou in the Quebec National Assembly.

Mr. Johnson had been a member of the Assembly since 1976 and had held several portfolios between 1977 and 1985. Following the resignation of **René Lévesque** he was sworn in as Premier of Quebec on October 3, 1985. With the defeat of the Parti Québécois in the 1985 election he became Leader of the Official Opposition. Although Mr. Johnson received the endorsement of the party at a subsequent convention Mr. Johnson decided to resign following criticism from party members about his strategy on the fundamental question of Quebec independence.

On September 16, the Senate paid tribute to Senator **Frederick Rowe** who retired later that month. A former teacher and later Deputy Minister of Public Welfare in the Newfoundland House of Assembly, he went into provincial politics winning five elections and holding eight different portfolios. Appointed to the Senate in 1971, he served on many committees notably Foreign Affairs. In one of his last speeches, Senator Rowe noted that when he first came to the

Senate he found that the principle item in the minds of Senators was reform of the Senate and seventeen years later the situation was very much the same.

In October the Yukon Legislative Assembly honoured G.I. "**Cam**" **Cameron**, 87, on the occasion of his retirement as Sergeant-at-Arms of the Assembly. Born in Three Rivers, Quebec he joined the Royal Northwest Mounted Police after the First World War and served in British Columbia until 1925. He retired from the RCMP in 1970 and became a territorial civil servant joining the Assembly in 1972. The Speaker, **Sam Johnson**, noted that the Assembly was fortunate to have had such a dignified Sergeant-at Arms.

Henry Kroeger 1917 to 1987

A former transport Minister and longtime member of the Alberta Legislative Assembly, **Henry Kroeger**, passed away on September 17 after a long battle with cancer. A businessman and president of Kroeger Brothers Farm Equipment, Mr. Kroeger was first elected to the Assembly in 1975.

William Reid 1913 to 1987

The Clerk of the Prince Edward Legislative Assembly died recently. For over thirty years **Bill Reid** worked for the provincial government in several capacities including Deputy Minister of Welfare and Labour. He retired in 1976 but two years later was persuaded to return to public life as Clerk of the Assembly. Active in many community and sports associations Mr. Reid was known and respected by Islanders in all walks of life.