



CPA Activities The Canadian Scene

Eighth Canadian Regional Seminar

The 8th Canadian Regional Seminar on Parliamentary Procedure and Practice was held in Ottawa from October 31 – November 4, 1982. The seminar brought together some fifty delegates and observers from the House of Commons and the provincial assemblies. The seminar was also attended by two members of the British House of Commons, **Peter Fry** and **Douglas Hoyle**, along with **Clifford Boulton**, Principal Clerk of the Table Office and by two members from Trinidad and Tobago, **Basdeo Panday** and **Shamshuddin Mohammed**.

The seminar was opened by **Jean Marchand**, Speaker of the Senate. Following the opening ceremony an Oxford Union type debate was held on a resolution that "Parliamentary and Legislative Institutions in Canada no longer perform the Functions for Which They were Created." Defending the resolution were Senator **Duff Roblin** and **Gerald Baldwin** former House Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party. Opposed to it were **Roy Romanow**, former Attorney General of Saskatchewan and Dr. **Victor Goldbloom**, a former Minister in the Quebec National Assembly. Presiding over the debate was **David Colenette**, MP for York East and Chairman of the Seminar. Mr. Colenette said the format was an attempt to return some of the thrust and parry of parliamentary debate which many people claim has been lost over the years. After a spirited and entertaining debate the House divided on the question. The resolution was defeated.

The second sessions dealt with "The Role of the Opposition" with **David Payne**, MNA from Quebec acting as lead off speaker. **Murry Elston**, MPP in Ontario led off the discussion on "Members Access to Information." "Financial Control Over The Executive" was led by **James Walding**, MLA, Manitoba. "The Positive Role For



David Colenette, Chairman of the 8th Canadian Regional Parliamentary Seminar

Backbenchers was opened by **George Moody**, MLA, Nova Scotia. **Walter Davidson**, MLA, British Columbia led off a discussion of whether the voice of the provinces is adequately represented in Ottawa by present institutions.

As is usually the case much useful information was also exchanged during various dinners hosted by the Speaker of the House of Commons, **Jeanne Sauvé**, the Speaker of the Senate, **Jean Marchand**, the Chairman of the federal branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, **Keith Penner** and by Mr. Colenette. Many delegates, particularly those with little legislative experience found the meetings most useful. Virtually everyone thought the Oxford Union type debate was a fine way to launch the seminar. The Deputy Speaker of the Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly **Lloyd Muller** announced that the 9th seminar will be held next year in Regina.

New Canadian Regional Representative

Canada has a new representative on the International Executive Committee of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. The Committee, composed of eighteen members, is responsible for the management of the activities and business of the Association. The Canadian Region is entitled to two representatives, one representing the federal branch and one representing the ten provincial and two territorial branches.

At the 28th CPA Conference in the Bahamas, **Keith Penner** was elected to succeed Dr. **Maurice Foster** as federal member on the Executive Committee.



Keith Penner



People

On September 13 **Walter Davidson** was elected Speaker of the British Columbia Legislative Assembly. A graduate of the University of British Columbia, Mr. Davidson worked as Executive Assistant to the Member of Parliament for Bur-



Walter Davidson

naby-Richmond from 1972-1975. He was elected to the British Columbia legislature in 1975 and re-elected in 1979. Mr. Davidson had served as Deputy Speaker since February 1980. He replaces **Harvey Schroeder** who was named to the Cabinet.

the Liberals with 146 seats in the House of Commons compared to 103 for the progressive Conservatives, 32 for the New Democrats and one Independent.

The Progressive Conservatives won two of three federal by-elections held on October 12. In Leeds-Grenville the widow of former MP Tom Cossitt, **Jennifer Cossitt**, retained the seat for the Tories. Mrs. Cossitt polled nearly three times as many votes as her nearest opponent.

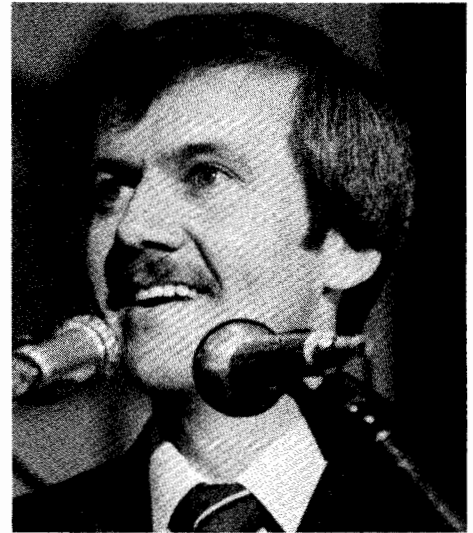


Jennifer Cossitt

By-elections

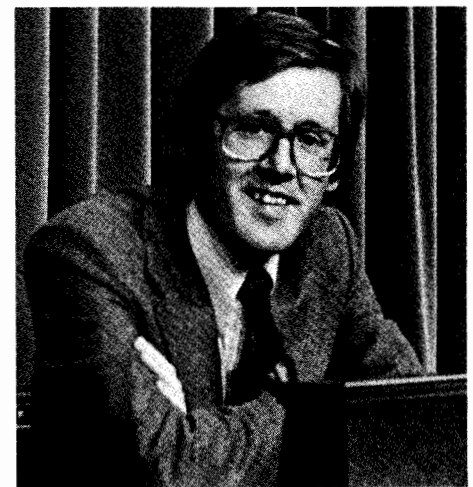
The NDP retained the riding of Broadview-Greenwood where **Lynn McDonald** narrowly defeated newspaper editor **Peter Worthington**. Mr. Worthington ran as an independent after failing to gain the Tory nomination. The official Tory candidate was third and the Liberals came fourth. The results of the by-elections left

The Conservatives also won the Northern Ontario riding of Timiskaming, formerly held by the Liberals. **John MacDougall** took the seat with 9,179 votes compared to 8,500 for the Liberal candidate. **Arnold Peters** of the NDP who had represented the riding until the 1980 general election finished third.



John MacDougall

On November 4, **Bob Rae**, leader of the Ontario New Democratic Party was elected in a by-election in York South. More than 58% of the electorate turned out as Mr. Rae retained the seat formerly belonging to **Donald MacDonald** of the NDP. Mr. MacDonald's resignation paved the way for Mr. Rae to enter the Ontario legislature some nine months after he became leader of the party following a convention last February.



Bob Rae

Resignations and Retirements

In October two senators, **Guy Williams** and **Carl Goldenberg**, reached the mandatory retirement age of 75. Senator Williams is past president of the Native Brotherhood of British Columbia and was

summoned to the Senate in 1971. One of his last activities in the Senate was to sponsor Bill S-28, "An Act establishing Indian-Inuit Week and Inuit-Indian Day". Senator Goldenberg also became a Senator in 1971 and served as Chairman of the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee. He had been a special counsel to the Prime Minister on the Constitution from 1968 to 1971 and is acknowledged as one of Canada's foremost constitutional experts. He has served on many federal, provincial and municipal commissions of inquiry and as an arbitrator in major labour-management disputes in Canada and the West Indies. The retirements of these senators brought the number of vacancies in the Senate to seventeen, as of November 1, 1982.

The former House Leader of the Parti Québécois and one of the original PQ members elected to the Quebec National Assembly, **Claude Charron**, resigned his seat in the Assembly at the end of October. Mr. Charron had previously resigned from the cabinet following a conviction for

shoplifting. Despite his legal problems many of his colleagues regretted the departure of such a competent and brilliant man from the National Assembly.

Walter Dinsdale

The "Dean of the House of Commons", **Walter Dinsdale**, died on November 20. Mr. Dinsdale was first elected to the House of Commons in 1951 and re-elected eleven consecutive times. He was a former Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources in the Diefenbaker government. Mr. Dinsdale was a vice-chairman of a parliamentary committee on the disabled and the handicapped. Among the many tributes paid to him in the House of Commons was one by **Walter Baker** who said, "Mr. Dinsdale's devotion to work was completely unselfish, even to the detriment of his health".

Thomas Russell Montgomery

An honorary member of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association passed away at age 90 on October 17,

1982. **Thomas Russell Montgomery** entered the Public Service at age 19 in 1912 and three years later joined the staff of the House of Commons. He worked his way up through the ranks becoming Clerk Assistant in 1952, a position he held until his retirement in 1965. He was for many years Secretary of the Canadian Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and helped to organize numerous conferences and exchanges. He was made an honorary life member of the Canadian Region in 1968.

Osborne Fraser

The member of the Nova Scotia House of Assembly for Cape Breton the Lakes, **Osborne Fraser**, died suddenly on October 29. Mr. Fraser, 59, a former steel worker, had been active in civic politics for many years before being elected to the Assembly in 1976. He is survived by his wife and eight children.

Public Accounts Committee Chairmen Meet

The Fourth Annual meeting of the Canadian Council of Public Accounts Committees took place in Victoria during the first week of July. All provinces and territories were represented, save Yukon where the Public Accounts Committee had yet to be reconstituted following the election. Since the House of Commons was still in session, no federal representative was present.

The Council's principal aims are the strengthening of the country's Public Accounts Committees and the fostering of accountability in public spending through exchange of information and ideas. In addi-

tion to the always valuable informal discussions among Public Accounts Committee members and staff, formal sessions included presentations from the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants and the Canadian Comprehensive Audit Foundation as well as the following papers: **Ernest Hall**, MLA (British Columbia) "The Accountability of Crown Corporations", Dr. **Colin Stewart**, MLA (Nova Scotia) "Estimates and Long-Term Budgeting", and **Patrick Reid**, MPP (Ontario) "Computers in Government, EDP Auditing and Public Accounts Committees". A joint session was held with the Auditors General who were

meeting in Victoria at the same time. The Council Members were also guests of the Auditors at a formal dinner at which the speaker was British Columbia Finance Minister, Hon. **Hugh Curtis**.

In its business meeting, the Council re-elected Mr. Reid as President and elected Mr. Hall and **Peter Pope**, MLA (Prince Edward Island), Vice-Presidents. A brief constitution was drafted and adopted (during which some delegates were heard to remark as to the ease of constitution-making in the absence of a federal presence!) and the venue selected for the 1983 meetings: Toronto.

Erratum: There were three mistakes in the Yukon election results published in the last issue of the Review. Mr. Tony Penikett, Leader of the Opposition, should have been listed as a member of the NDP. Messrs. Don Taylor and Howard Tracey were incorrectly listed as new members. We apologize for any inconvenience or embarrassment this might have caused.

Meeting of Sergeants-At-Arms

On August 20th, the Canadian Association of Sergeants-At-Arms met in Winnipeg. Formed in Quebec City in 1981, this organization has two basic aims: promoting a better understanding of the Sergeant-at-Arms and serving as a means for the exchange of information and experience among Canadian Sergeants. The Association's ultimate goal is improvement in the services and protection for Members of Canada's legislatures.

Most provincial and territorial legislatures were represented at the meeting as were the Senate and the House of Commons. In addition, three guests from the

United States took part in the proceedings. All delegates were ably looked after by **James Diack**, recently appointed Sergeant of the Manitoba Legislature, who served as host and organizer for the meeting. The Speaker of the Manitoba Assembly, Hon. **James Walding**, got the gathering off to a good start with a reception for the delegates and their spouses on the evening before the meeting.

A very full day of talks and presentations covered a number of security-related issues. Representatives of the Manitoba Government and of the Winnipeg Police force spoke on the general need for security and on special problems of VIP

protection. Included in this phase of the meeting was a demonstration of how easily guns and other weapons may be concealed and detected. Professor **Lawrence Breen** of the University of Manitoba spoke to the group on the psychology of distraught persons in the context of legislative security and on possible handling of disturbed individuals.

Mr. **René Jalbert**, Sergeant-at-Arms of the Quebec National Assembly, was unanimously acclaimed as President of the Association for a second year. The Association next meets in Ottawa in August 1983.



Front Row (L to R) Warren Leary, Jr., New Hampshire House of Representatives; Gus Cloutier, House of Commons; Ernie Diack, Manitoba; René Jalbert, Quebec; Tom Bowie, Senate; Milo Cheney, New Hampshire Senate; Back Row (L to R) Harold Long, Nova Scotia; Leo McNulty, New Brunswick; Oscar Lacombe, Alberta; Tom Stelling, Ontario; Cyril Kirby, Newfoundland; Alan Hutchinson, British Columbia; John Everhardt, New York State.