



CPA Activities: The Canadian Scene

Ninth Canadian Regional Seminar

The ninth Canadian Regional Seminar was held in Regina from October 3-7, 1983. Saskatchewan thus became the fourth province, after Quebec, Ontario and Nova Scotia to host the regional seminar. All provinces and territories were represented as was the House of Commons. Three members from the British House of Commons, **William Hamilton**, **Frederick Silvester** and **Donald Limon** also attended. The recently retired Clerk of the British House, **Sir Charles Gordon**, was a special guest.

The first session featured an Oxford Union style debate on a resolution that "the American Congressional System is better suited to meet the needs of a modern democratic society than the British parliamentary system". Supporting the resolution were **Keith Penner**, MP and Dr. **Morris Shumiatcher**, a prominent local attorney. Defending the parliamentary system were **Sir Charles** and **Stephen Neary**, MHA from Newfoundland. The Penner-Shumiatcher team made a vigorous critique of the parliamentary system centering on its tenden-

cy to relegate backbenchers to the role of "trained seals".

Dr. Shumiatcher characterized their argument with a few lines, sung in fine melody, from Gilbert and Sullivan's *HMS Pinafore*:

"I always voted at my party's call.
And I never thought of thinking for myself at all. I thought so little they rewarded me. And now I am the ruler of the Queen's navy."

In their rebuttal Neary-Gordon deplored the loss of liberty associated with greater and greater departures from the British system. Mr. Neary even countered with an impromptu verse sung to the tune of "Where have all the flowers gone":

"Where have all our democratic freedoms gone? Someone took them, every one. When will we ever learn? When will we ever learn?"

The motion was defeated on the basis of applause from assembled parliamentarians and observers. A video tape of the debate was presented to the head of

each delegation at the conclusion of the seminar.

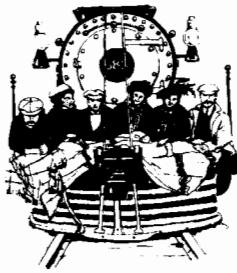
Other topics on the agenda provoked much interest and discussion by parliamentarians. Among these were presentations by the Auditor General, **Kenneth Dye**, on "New Developments in Financial Security". Professor **Duff Spafford** spoke on "Proportional Representation in Canada". Parliamentarians to lead off discussions were: **John MacDougall**, MP, on "The Role of Parliamentary Committees and Task Forces", **Loyola Hearn**, MHA, on "Can the Westminster model be successfully adapted to plural societies with federal governments?", **John Turner**, MPP, on "Is Parliament winning the battle of accountability?", **Austin Pelton**, MLA, on "Accountability of Crown Corporations", **Pierre de Bellefeuille**, MNA, on "Security within the precincts of Parliament", **Douglas Moore**, MLA, on "Administration of Members Services" and finally **Tom Musgrove**, MLA, on "The role of Private Members vis-à-vis service as parliamentary or legislative secretaries".



The Auditor General, **Kenneth Dye**, addressing the 9th Canadian Regional Seminar. (Saskatchewan Government Photo Service, Linda Marusiak)



Herb Swan announcing the result of the Oxford Union style debate featuring (l-r) **Keith Penner**, **Morris Shumiatcher**, **Stephen Neary** and **Sir Charles Gordon**. (Saskatchewan Government Photo Services, Linda Marusiak)



People

By-elections

The two newest members of the House of Commons, **Brian Mulroney** and **Gerry St. Germain**, both Progressive Conservatives were elected in by-elections held on August 29th, 1983.

Mr. Mulroney is the new Leader of the Conservative Party having replaced **Joe Clark** at a leadership convention held last June. Born in Baie Comeau, Quebec, Mr. Mulroney is a graduate in Political Science from St. Francis Xavier University and holds a law degree from Laval University. After practicing law several years Mr. Mulroney joined the Iron Ore Company of Canada in 1976 and worked for that company in a number of capacities including President and Chairman of the Executive Committee.



Brian Mulroney

Shortly after the leadership convention, the Member of Parliament for Central Nova, **Elmer MacKay**, resigned to open the way for Mr. Mulroney to win a seat in the House. When the votes were counted the

new Tory Leader had taken more than 60% of the vote easily defeating Liberal, New Democratic and three independent candidates.

The same day in Mission-Port Moody, Gerry St. Germain, a 44 year old poultry farmer took the seat previously held by **Mark Rose** of the New Democratic Party. Mr. Rose had resigned to run in the British Columbia provincial election. The victory by Mr. St. Germain represented a turn-around of about 8,000 votes compared to the 1980 election results.



Gerry St. Germain

Resignations and Retirements

In September a Liberal Member of the Newfoundland and Labrador House of Assembly, **Tom Lush**, resigned from the legislature. A teacher, Mr. Lush was first elected in 1975. He resigned in order to accept a position at Macdonald Drive Junior High School in St. John's.

On September 20, 1983 Senator **Ernest C. Manning** retired from the Senate at the mandatory age of 75. First elected to

the Alberta legislature in 1935, he served as Provincial Secretary and Minister of Trade and Industry before becoming Premier in 1943, a position he held for 25 years. Although active in business and religious circles, he is perhaps best remembered as the man who, as Social Credit Premier, led Alberta from the poverty-stricken war years through the post-war oil boom. In paying tribute to him, Senator **Jacques Flynn** said that Senator Manning's retirement "marks the end of the official career of one of the most remarkable people in the history of Canadian politics. Few are they who, having started so young in this thankless business, were so consistently successful over such a long period of time".

On August 15 the Sergeant-at-Arms of the British Columbia Legislative Assembly retired after 24 years with the Assembly the last twelve in his present position. Before the Second World War Mr. **Alan Hutchinson** was a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. During the war he was an air gunner on Liberator aircraft with the Royal Canadian Air Force in Burma and Ceylon.

Subsequently Mr. Hutchinson returned to the RCMP, retiring in 1958. The following year he joined the Legislative Assembly staff becoming Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms in 1961. **James Neilsen** on behalf of the government and **Frank Howard** for the opposition wished Mr. Hutchinson, now 82, many more years to enjoy his second retirement.

Fabien Bélanger

The member of the Quebec National Assembly for Mégantic-Compton, Fabien Bélanger, died on October 2, at age 47. Born at Saint-Fabien-de-Panet he had worked as a salesman for various companies in North Bay, Montreal, and the town of Saint-Laurent. He had also served as a constable for the municipality of Dorval from 1965-1969. Elected to the Assembly

in an 1980 by-election, Mr. Bélanger was a member of the Liberal Party and was re-elected in 1981.

Osie Villeneuve

The member of the Ontario Legislative Assembly for Stormont-Dundas-Glengarry, Osie Villeneuve died on September 25, 1983. Mr. Villeneuve was the senior member of the legislature having won the riding for the Progressive Conservatives in eight consecutive elections. The Deputy Premier, **Robert Welch** praised Mr. Villeneuve for his work on behalf of constituents while the Liberal Leader, **David Peterson**, commented on his exemplary attendance rec-

ord and his kindness to newly elected members. New Democratic Party Leader, **Bob Rae**, said Mr. Villeneuve had "an extraordinary gift of integrity and a gift of service".

Walter Baker

The House of Commons lost one of its most respected members with the sudden passing of Walter Baker at the age of 53. A lawyer, Mr. Baker began his parliamentary career in 1972 when he was elected as the Progressive Conservative member for Nepean-Carleton. Re-elected with large majorities in 1974, 79 and 80, Mr. Baker was known for his dedication to his con-

stituents and his interest in Parliament and parliamentary reform.

Of him, former Prime Minister **Joe Clark** said, "he had the gifts of making government and parliament personal. He leaves one kind of legacy in the debates, in the rules and laws of this parliament and in the laws which he affected, but for those of us who were privileged to work with him, his larger legacy is the committed, generous, positive spirit which guided everything he did, even in the days when disease was pulling him down. More than a colleague, even more than a friend, he was a constant example of the decency, generosity and love which are at the heart of the way we live".