



Recent Publications and Documents

SPEAKERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE PROVINCE OF NEW BRUNSWICK 1786-1985, Legislative Assembly, Fredericton, New Brunswick, 1985, 72 p.

The forward to this compendium of biographies quotes an extract from the *New Brunswick Journal of Debates* (February 16, 1939) referring to a statement by former Speaker F.C. Squires describing what this function involved: "The Speaker, more than any other member of the House, represents the will of the people of the country. He is the barrier which any subversive attack on democratic institutions must break. He is the First commoner. The power placed in his hands by the House is great. Without his consent, even the Representative of the King cannot enter this chamber. He represents in no small way the supreme will of the people. . . . His decisions cannot be questioned except by a vote of the House. He maintains decorum in debate and sees to it that each representative of the people has the exercise of freedom of speech within the Rules of the House".

Unfortunately, most of these biographies provide very little information on the careers of the men who held the position of Speaker in New Brunswick. The Honourable Amos Botsford, the first Speaker occupied the position for twenty-six consecutive years, from January 3, 1786 to March 7, 1812. His son, William, and grandson, Bliss Botsford, succeeded him. But their careers as Speakers remain largely unexplored.

As regards James Edward Lynott, the book quotes from an editorial in *The Gleaner* of January 8, 1890 which indicated that, as Speaker of the House, he acted with courtesy and impartiality, and his decisions were never questioned. No events illustrating this statement and no highlights of his career are reported. The same is true with regard to the Honourable George Johnson Clarke. A quotation taken from *The Gleaner* of February 27, 1917 indicates that he fulfilled his role with dignity and won the confidence and respect of members from both sides of the House.

One career which seems to have been rather extraordinary was that of Frederick Charles Squires. Appointed Deputy Speaker of the House during the 1926 session he became Speaker on February 12, 1931, a position he retained until April 4, 1935. On March 5, 1936, he was chosen as parliamentary leader of the opposition and later became head of the Conservative Party. In 1953 he was appointed Clerk of the New Brunswick Legislative Assembly and Law Clerk. He performed these roles until 1959. The *Telegraph Journal* of December 17, 1960 described him as having acquired a reputation as a first-class expert on parliamentary procedure in New Brunswick.

This book is not intended for those interested in the evolution of parliamentary procedure in New Brunswick or Canada as a whole. It does not provide a comprehensive description of the mandates and responsibilities of those who occupied the position of Speaker. It is, however, a very useful reference tool for those who want more information on the major stages in the lives of these politicians. More information would be required concerning their duties and the events which distinguished their careers as Speakers in order to bring these individuals to life. It could then prove to be a most valuable tool for those working in the field of parliamentary procedure.

Suzanne Verville
Table Research Branch
House of Commons
Ottawa

LEXIQUE DES TERMES PARLEMENTAIRES EN USAGE EN BELGIQUE, EN FRANCE ET AU QUÉBEC, National Assembly of Quebec, 1986, 55 p.

The purpose of this glossary is to compare certain terms used in three French language Parliaments – Quebec, France and Belgium. The same term may have different or slightly different meanings from one parliament to another. For example the meaning of, "loi constitutionnelle", "ministre

d'État", "projet de loi" and many other terms varies according to the jurisdiction. Conversely terms such as, "trône" and "perchoir", "clôture" and "guillotine"; "mort au feuillet" and "caducité" mean the same thing according to the Legislature. One can imagine the confusion that could result from misuse of a term.

The glossary includes terms unique to each system, for example, "Conseil de la communauté française" (Belgium), "Congrès du Parlement" (France), "tiers parti" (Quebec). Certain other terms are identified with only one country although it is unclear whether they also exist elsewhere. Among these terms are "orateur" (Belgium, France), "recueil des notices et portraits" (France), "décision" (Quebec), "étude des crédits" (Quebec), "projet de loi d'intérêt privé" (Quebec). Moreover it is not self-evident that other terms such as "favoritisme" or "lobby" are used exclusively in Quebec. Unfortunately the authors did not make a more systematic comparison or at least explain the parameters of their study, particularly in areas where linguistic intuition or a knowledge of parliamentary procedure would suggest there should be corresponding terms.

Aside from these shortcomings, the glossary covers the essential terms in the parliamentary process. The organization and arrangement of the data is well done and easy to use. It includes some 372 entries arranged in alphabetical order followed by an index of all terms mentioned in the text. Each entry is accompanied by a clear and concise definition including an indication of the different meanings for each country where the term is used. These are often followed by relevant explanatory notes and cross references.

Mistakes in usage are indicated giving the glossary a normative dimension. Certain terms and entries in the index are in quotation marks but the use of quotes is not always consistent. For example they are used differently in the case of "trombinoscope", "simple député", "Haute assemblée" and "redistribution des sièges". Perhaps the authors could have clarified their practice.

Publication of this glossary was a