



CPA: The Canadian Scene

Fourth Annual Canadian Presiding Officers' Conference Winnipeg Manitoba

Speaker **Myrna Phillips** of Manitoba was host to the fourth annual conference of presiding officers held in Winnipeg from January 30 – February 1, 1987. Some nineteen Speakers, Deputy Speakers and one Speaker designate attended the conference along with several Clerks and other observers.

The topics on the agenda included parliamentary privilege, points of order, oral question period, decorum, language and speech content, and the ceremonial and procedural role of the Speaker.

The first session featured a special guest, **Joe Maingot**, former Law Clerk of the House of Commons and presently with the Law Reform Commission of Canada. He spoke on the question of parliamentary privileges and immunities, a subject of particular interest to presiding officers.

Unlike the adversarial nature of many federal-provincial meetings, these conferences provide a valuable forum for members of an unique profession to discuss common problems with their colleagues.

During the course of the meeting a number of thoughtful questions and comments were raised by various Speakers. For example: Has question period evolved from its original purpose as an accountability session into a training ground for ministers and now with television, into something little more than a "killing ground" having little resemblance to the original purpose for which it was introduced? The Speakers also discussed possible approaches to the problem of a lack of understanding of parliamentary procedure among parliamentarians and the population in general.

There was an interesting discussion on whether, in the long run, it is better

to retain order by refusing to recognize disorderly members rather than expelling them and giving more publicity to their actions. The point was made several times that there are significant differences in what a Speaker can do in a large Assembly like the House of Commons and in smaller ones like many of the provincial ones. Nevertheless there was general agreement that what goes on in the House of Commons affects the behaviour of members in the provinces.

In keeping with the informal and frank nature of the discussions no verbatim transcript of the conference was kept. The serious nature of the discussions can be inferred from the willingness of so many busy individuals to take a week-end out of their schedule to come to Winnipeg in mid winter to consider the nature and problems of the Speakership. Speaker Phillips and her staff did everything possible to make it a most enjoyable two days.



Speaker Myrna Phillips



People

New Speakers

On December 3, 1986, **Arnold Tusa** was elected Speaker of the Legislative Assembly Saskatchewan replacing **Herb Swan** who was named to the cabinet. Mr. Tusa, 46, was born at Cupar, Saskatchewan and is now farming in the community. He holds a Bachelor of

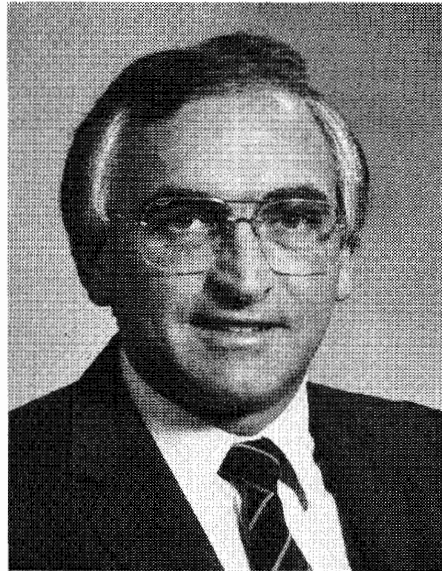


Arnold Tusa

Education Degree from the University of Saskatchewan and taught school in his constituency prior to his election to the Assembly in 1982.

In British Columbia the new Speaker is **John Reynolds**. A business man, Mr. Reynolds was first elected to the House of Commons in 1972. He served actively on a number of committees including Health and Welfare, Housing, Sport and Fitness, Transportation, and Justice and Legal Affairs. He was appointed to the shadow cabinet by both **Robert Stanfield** in 1974 and **Joe Clark** in 1976.

After leaving federal politics he was elected to the British Columbia Legislature in 1983. He was chairman of the Agriculture Committee, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Human Resources and later Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health.

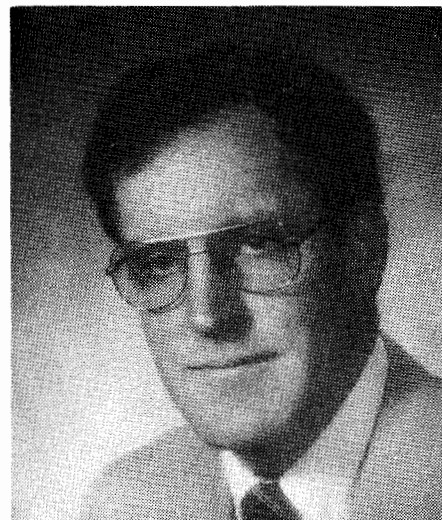


John Reynolds

By-elections

Provincial by-elections have been held recently in Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island and the Yukon.

The PEI by-election was called for December 10, 1986, in Prince Fifth, vacated when the former Conservative MLA was appointed to the bench. The new member is **Andrew Walker** who held the seat for the Progressive Conservatives.



Andrew Walker

In the Yukon **Danny Joe** of the New Democratic Party won the seat of Tatchun vacated by the former leader of the Liberal Party who pleaded guilty to selling cocaine to an undercover RCMP officer. Mr. Joe, 57, is a former Chief of the Selkirk Indian Band. Nearly ninety percent of the four hundred and eight eligible voters turned out, giving Mr. Joe a 37 vote victory over his nearest opponent. The result gave the NDP a slim majority in the 16 seat territorial assembly.

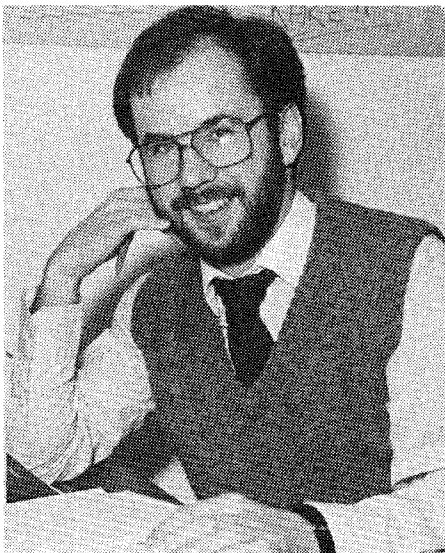


Danny Joe

Two by-elections were held in Newfoundland on December 9 to fill vacancies to the resignations of two former cabinet ministers. In St. John's East Extern the Conservatives held the seat when **Kevin Parsons** defeated New Democrat and Liberal challengers.

In St. John's East **Gene Long** became the second NDP candidate to win a seat in the provincial assembly when he won by nearly 1800 votes over his Conservative opponent. Mr. Long, 29, a local peace activist and OXFAM worker defeated the Deputy Mayor of St. John's and one other candidate. It was the first time since Newfoundland joined Confederation in 1949 that the riding had gone to anyone but a

Conservative. The results left the Conservatives with 35 members, compared to 15 for the Liberals and 2 New Democrats.



Gene Long

A former provincial cabinet minister, Dr. **George Johnson**, has been appointed Lieutenant-Governor in Manitoba. Born in Winnipeg in 1920, Dr. Johnson attended the University of Manitoba. He served in the Navy from 1941 to 1945 and for many years carried



Hon. George Johnson

on a general medical practice in Gimli, Manitoba. First elected to the Legislative Assembly in 1958, he served as Minister of Health and later Minister of Education before returning to private practice in 1969. In 1978 he became Chief Medical Consultant to the Health Department with the rank of Associate Deputy Minister.

In Nova Scotia the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, **Arthur Donahoe**, announced the appointment of a new Clerk, **Roderick MacArthur**, and Assistant Clerk **Cherry Fergusson**. Mr. MacArthur is a graduate of Dalhousie Law School and was admitted to the Nova Scotia Bar in 1974. He has practised law in Annapolis Royal since that time. He is Solicitor for the town of Annapolis Royal and the Annapolis Royal Development Corporation. A member of the Nova Scotia Legal Aid Commission he serves on the Board of Big Brothers of Annapolis County.

Appointments

In November Prime Minister Mulroney filled three vacancies in the Senate with the appointments of **Mira Spivak**, **Eileen Rossiter** and **Ethel Cochrane**.

Mrs. Spivak of Manitoba is a planning associate with the Winnipeg Social Planning Council and former Chairman of the Winnipeg School Board. Mrs. Rossiter of Prince Edward Island is a real estate agent who had been active in Charlottetown community affairs as well as an organizer for the Progressive Conservative Party. She served as Assistant to the Speaker of the Prince Edward Island Legislature from 1982 to 1986. Mrs. Cochrane of Newfoundland teaches grade four at Port au Port School. She also is part owner of two small businesses, a convenience store and an aviation company. A native of Lourdes in Western Newfoundland she has arts and education degrees from Memorial University and a Masters Degree from St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, Nova Scotia.

In December another new Senator was chosen when Mr. Mulroney named **Jean Bazin** to the Upper House. A lawyer from Montreal, Mr. Bazin was national co-chairman of the Conservative Party's 1984 election campaign. He is also a director of Petro Canada and vice president of the Canadian Bar Association.

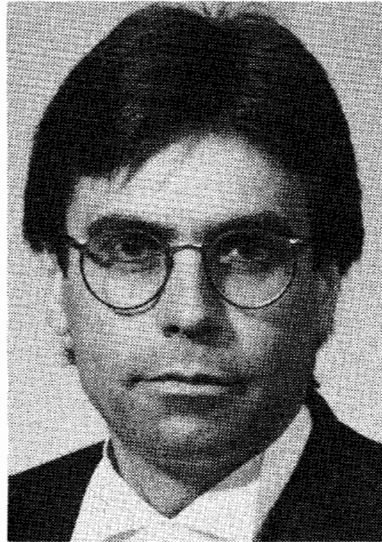


Newly appointed Senators Mira Spivak, Eileen Rossiter and Ethel Cochrane pose beside a statue of Canada's first female Senator, Cairine Wilson. (Canapress)



Rod MacArthur (Nova Scotia, Dept. of Gov't. Services)

The British Columbia Legislature also has a new Clerk Assistant. He is **Craig James**, formerly Clerk Assistant with the Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly. A native Saskatchewan, he studied at the University of Regina and received a Master of Library Science from the University of Wales. Mr. James served in the Saskatchewan Legislative Library prior to joining the Table as Clerk Assistant. He has been Secretary to the Canadian Council of Public Accounts Committee.



Craig James

Probably few persons in politics commanded as widespread genuine affection and respect as Senator Lapointe. She was, as Senator **Lowell Murray**, observed "a living example of everything we feel is good and admirable in this country."

The House of Commons also lost one of its senior members when **Erik Neilsen** resigned as member for the Yukon. Mr. Neilsen had been a member of the House of Commons since 1958. A skilled parliamentarian, Mr. Neilsen served in many capacities for the last four leaders of the Conservative Party. He was even Leader of the Official Opposition for a brief period in 1983. When the Conservatives were in power he held various portfolios including Minister of National Defence, Minister of Public Works, President of the Privy Council and Deputy Prime Minister. Mr. Neilsen was appointed chairman of the Canadian Transportation Commission.

The Nova Scotia House of Assembly noted the retirement of its Clerk, Dr. **Henry Muggah**. He had served for many years with the Attorney General's Office where he was a legislative draftsman. He retired in 1972 but soon took up a part time position with the Council of Maritime Premiers. He was hired as Clerk of the Legislative Assembly and soon became well known and liked by Nova Scotia legislators and fellow Clerks across Canada. Dr. Muggah was the first Chairman of the Editorial Board of the *Canadian Parliamentary Review*.

In Alberta the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly Dr. **David Carter**, announced a reorganization of the Legislative Assembly Office. He noted that he had received the resignations of **Bohdan Stefaniuk** as Clerk and **Robert Bubba** as Clerk Assistant along with that of the Director of Administration. Speaker Carter said "none of the resignations reflect upon the conscientiousness or integrity of these gentlemen. We thank them for their past service and wish them well in their future endeavours."

Dennis Timbrell, announced in January that he would resign his seat on 28 February. First elected to the legislature in the 1971 general election, Mr. Timbrell was appointed Minister without portfolio in 1974 and later served as Minister of Energy, Minister of Health, Minister of Agriculture and Food, Minister of Municipal Affairs, Minister responsible for Women's Issues and Provincial Secretary for Resources Development in the Davis and Miller governments. Mr. Timbrell failed at two attempts in 1985 to secure the leadership of the Ontario Progressive Conservative Party.

Ms. Ferguson is a native of Pictou, Nova Scotia and a graduate of Mount Allison University and Dalhousie Law School. She holds a Masters of Law Degree from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland and was the recipient of several academic awards and scholarships. Admitted to the Nova Scotia Bar in 1973 she was General Counsel and Corporate Secretary of Rothmans of Pall Mall Canada Limited. She is a member of the Board of Directors of the Dalhousie Alumni Association and a lecturer in Law-Medicine at Dalhousie University Medical School.



Cherry Fergusson (Nova Scotia, Dept. of Gov't. Services)

Retirements and Resignations

On December 17, 1986 the Senate paid tribute to **Renaude Lapointe** and **Louis Giguère**, two members who would be retiring early in the new year. Senator Giguère was the Liberal Party's Chief organizer for Quebec and the first person appointed to the Senate by former Prime Minister Trudeau. Senator **George van Roggen** called him "a man of remarkable organizational ability, and also a man of coolness and precision from whom I learned a great deal".

Senator Lapointe is a former journalist for *Le Soleil* and later *La Presse* and *Le Nouveau Journal*. She also served as correspondent for such American magazines as *Time*, *Life* and *Variety*. Senator **Allan MacEachen** remarked she has, "in a sense, reversed modern contemporary Liberal practice. She has put her thoughts on paper before entering politics rather than on leaving." Renaude Lapointe was Speaker of the Senate from 1974 to 1979. She was an active participant in Commonwealth Parliamentary Association activities as well as those of other associations and committees.