



The Milne Report



A quarterly report from Senator Lorna Milne on Parliament Hill happenings

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Senator Milne Attends Australian Opening of Oscar Peterson Exhibit

While in Australia this past April, Senator Milne had the opportunity to represent Canada at the Australian opening of a National Archives of Canada exhibit honouring the extraordinary career of one of Canada's most remarkable artists. Mr. Peterson has generously donated his lifetime collection of personal papers and musical programs to the Archives, to ensure that they would be properly preserved, and available as the Canadian treasure that they are.

For most of the last six decades, Oscar Peterson has been Canada's leading jazz artist. A highly accomplished pianist, polished in his technique and insightful in his artistry, he is internationally renowned as a soloist, group member and accompanist. Probably best known for his work with the trios he has led over the years, he has also accompanied such jazz greats as Ella Fitzgerald, Stan Getz, Dizzy Gillespie and Billie Holiday and made a major impact as a solo artist.

In addition to the exhibits of the mementos of his life, a video was playing that showed many of the events of his life, including his performance at the opening ceremonies of the 1988 Winter Olympics with the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra. This was a real treat for me to see as my daughter-in-law Jocelyn was one of the members of the Orchestra who played with Oscar Peterson on that stage. A young man played some of Peterson's arrangements at the beginning of the evening, and at the end they had an electronic device hooked up to the grand piano that reproduced some of Oscar's own performances. It was fascinating to watch the keys being depressed with no one touching them.

I want to commend the National Archives of Canada for taking the time to produce a great exhibit to honour the work of a great Canadian. It is yet another example of how important it is to support the Archives' role in preserving Canada's history and heritage.



Senator Milne at the Australian opening of the National Archives of Canada Oscar Peterson Exhibit



Senatorial Profile Hon. Al Graham

Appointed to the Senate in 1972 by the late former Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau, Senator Alasdair Graham represents the province of Nova Scotia. He is retiring this month after a long career in the Senate where his wit and warmth have been a blessing to all of us.

Senator Graham served as Leader of the Government in the Senate (1997-99), and Deputy Leader of the Government in the Senate (1995-97). He was President of the Liberal Party of Canada from 1975-1980. Earlier career experiences include serving as a Special Assistant to the Minister of Labour, and as an Executive Assistant to the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

In the private sector, Senator Graham's career includes serving as a teacher, journalist, and corporation executive. He is also the author of *The Seeds of Freedom: Personal Reflections on the Dawning of Democracy*.

Completing his early education at schools in Dominion and Glace Bay, Nova Scotia, Senator Graham holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from St. Francis Xavier University, from which he also received an Honourary Doctor of Laws. He has completed post-graduate studies in English and Education.

Born in Dominion, Nova Scotia on May 21, 1929, Senator Graham has 10 children and 17 grandchildren.



Hill Happenings

As I am writing this note to you we appear to be on the verge of the 38th general election in Canadian history. As a result, the Senate has been working extremely hard to finish our study of as many bills as possible. Some of the issues that we have grappled with in the last months before the election are:

C-9: The Jean Chretien Pledge to Africa Act. This bill would make it legal for Canadian drug manufacturers to sell generic versions of certain patent protected drugs to Africa. AIDS continues to be a leading killer throughout much of Africa, and as a result of the work of the former Prime Minister, Canada has taken the leading role internationally in providing much needed medicine to Africans.

C-7: The Public Safety Act. This bill is also known as Anti-Terrorism II. It will strengthen the powers of the government to combat terrorism. In particular many of the measures contained in the bill reinforce airport and transportation security.

C-22: Cruelty to Animals. This long awaited and long debated bill is again in front of the Senate's Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee. It will significantly increase penalties for those people who commit crimes against animals. Its current version is widely supported by both animal rights groups, and Canada's agricultural and animal use community.



Veterans Affairs Canada Anciens Combattants Canada



Creation of a Seventh Book of Remembrance

The Peace Tower in the nation's capital is home to Canada's six Books of Remembrance. These treasures are testaments to Canada's past, for by their very title they remind us to never forget the foundations of courage on which Canada is built. The Books commemorate those who have lost their lives in the First and Second World Wars, the Korean War, the 1885 Nile Expedition and the South African War as well as the Merchant Navy and the Newfoundland Forces.

The Department of Veterans Affairs is asking Canadians to help them in the creation of a Seventh Book of Remembrance. This Book of Remembrance, entitled "*In the Service of Canada: The Seventh Book of Remembrance*", will recognize members of

the Canadian Forces who died in service to their country since October 1, 1947, and whose death is attributable to their military service, exclusive of those commemorated in the Book of Remembrance - Korean War.

Veterans Affairs is working with the National Archives of Canada in researching and identifying the names of those who will be commemorated in the book. In order to ensure the complete accuracy and integrity of this seventh book, Veterans Affairs is also asking Canadians to come forward with any information

they may have on servicemen and women who have died since October 1, 1947 as a result of their service. The type of information required includes: name of member, service number and date of death. Canadians who have information are asked to send it by email at : commemoration@vac-acc.gc.ca or by mail at:



LEST WE FORGET

Veterans Affairs Canada
Canada Remembers – 12th Floor
Seventh Book of Remembrance Project
66 Slater Street
Ottawa, Ontario KIA 0P4

This endeavour will help ensure that we continue to keep alive the achievements and sacrifices made by those who served Canada and to promote an understanding of the significance of these efforts to Canadian life as we know it today.

Ethics in the Senate: A Note from Senator Milne

Dear Friends:

As you are all aware, the ethical conduct of Canada's politicians, and its civil service has become a major issue over the last couple of years. In some ways I find it distressing because the vast majority of Senators, MPs, and especially our civil servants are hard working, decent, honest, and caring individuals. But at the same time, the Senate has taken the opportunity to examine the role of Senators in public life, and to take steps to improve the rules governing our conduct, to ensure that all Canadians can have trust in their public institutions.

For the last 2 years I have been at the forefront of the movement within the Senate to hire an Ethics Officer to oversee our affairs, and to develop a code of conduct that will steer all Senators away from conflicts of interest—both real and perceived. In the fall of 2002, Prime Minister Chrétien asked me to chair the Senate Standing Committee on Rules, Privileges and the Rights of Parliament. We were charged with the task of studying the Prime Minister's ethics package and making recommendations on how it could be adapted for the Senate. The task was far from easy.

There were, without a doubt, many Senators who did not believe that we needed any new ethical rules. After all, all of the problems that the media have been commenting on were coming from the cabinet or the House of Commons. I strongly believe, however, that the best way to protect the integrity of the Senate as an institution, and to protect the interests of all Canadians, is to have strong clear rules that are properly enforced. The Committee met two dozen times in the winter of 2003 before producing a report in April of that year. We made a series of 10 recommendations to Prime Minister Chrétien on how to improve his ethics package. All of them were approved and adopted in the bill that was introduced in the House of Commons that spring.

Bill C-34, as it was then known, was met with stiff opposition in the Senate. In committee the opposition refused to co-operate with extended sitting times to ensure that the bill was studied and approved before parliament adjourned. The Conservatives boycotted the last meeting on the bill, but we went ahead anyway and passed the bill. Eventually, bill C-34 died because the Senate as a whole amended it at third reading. The House of Commons did not have time to deal with the amended bill before Prime Minister Martin was sworn in.

When parliament resumed in February, I was asked to stay on as the chair of the Rules Committee, and Prime Minister Martin re-introduced the ethics bill without the amendments that the Senate had passed. In my opinion this was a very good sign because the amendments to bill C-34 would have created an ethics regime with no teeth, and no ability to protect either the interests of Senators or of the general public. It was extremely difficult to bring Senators on board. I worked very hard with all members of the committee to convince Senators that this was the right thing to do, and that the bill as written did not need to be amended and should not be watered down.

For a third time, the Rules Committee was asked to study the bill, and again there was significant resistance to the measures. I was determined, though, to get the bill through and once again we were successful. On an 8-5 vote that followed party lines, with 2 abstentions the bill passed. When the bill returned to the floor of the Senate, amendments were once again proposed, but this time, on sober second thought, the Senate passed the bill unamended. I am proud to say that the Senate will have a robust ethics regime governing it, and I am also proud that I was able to have chaired the committee that made this new ethics regime a reality.

