

Mississauga Politics
and
Govt.
MISSISSAUGA REVIEW

Abolish senate:

Oct. 3-73 HT

Blenkarn

LPC

The Senate should be abolished or at least reformed because it is "a total waste of time," Peel South MP Don Blenkarn says.

Blenkarn claims the view is widely held by members of Parliament but notes that whatever party is in power will be slow to call for abolishing or reforming the body as it is an ideal outlet for rewarding party workers.

"It's the best job in Canada. You get \$12,000 salary and \$6,000 expenses for meeting three times a week for three hours. And the Senate sits far less than the Commons."

Blenkarn made the comments after pointing out that his private member's bill to change the riding name from Peel South to Mississauga has been delayed for Senate approval until November because of a lengthy recess.

He refers to the body as the "sober chamber of no thought".

Blenkarn notes that MP's have been seeking a change in the Senate since before 1900.

But he doubts that either his Progressive Conservative Party or the New Democratic Party would change the body.

"One way to reform it would be to have equal representation from the nation's five regions. This would get around some of the provincial hang-ups the government has been having."

He feels the Senate could do more than sponsoring its "three or four bills per year".