

Speaking Notes
The Honourable Noël A. Kinsella
Speaker of the Senate

On the occasion of a luncheon in honour of Dr. Riccardo Pelizzo

Speaker's Dining Room
Ottawa, 6 June 2012

Senator Segal,
Honourable Senators and Members of the House of Commons,
Dr. Pelizzo,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to welcome you to the Parliament of Canada and to the Speaker's Dining Room, where we are gathered in honour of Dr. Riccardo Pelizzo, a prolific writer and thinker on political and legislative affairs. By way of introduction, I will draw your attention to the epigraph carved in the woodwork on the south wall which reads "Sapere aude". For those of you who may find your Latin a little rusty, it translates as "Dare to be wise". Our special guest today is one who has taken it to heart.

Dr. Pelizzo, the lengthy list of books, journal articles, and working and conference papers in your name is impressive. Upon graduating from the University of Bologna in 1995, you received a Graduate Diploma in International affairs from the Bologna Centre of the Paul Nitze School of Advanced International Studies in 1997; a certificate in quantitative methods from the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research of the University of Michigan; and an MA and a PhD in Political Science from the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland.

Your work has been published or translated into 10 different languages; you have successfully engaged MPs from the Fiji Islands to Nigeria on the benefits of oversight and good governance, and the importance of Public Accounts Committees; while your paper on “*Tools of Legislative Oversight*” was debated in the Filipino House of Representatives and was heavily referenced in a subsequent report of their Congressional Planning and Budget Staff Department entitled “*Bureaucracy: issues and challenges of legislative oversight.*”

The timely publication of which you were the editor, entitled “*The “War on Terror” and the Growth of Executive Power? A Comparative Analysis*”, dealt with subject matter that warrants close and continuing examination. The world has changed dramatically since the events of September 11th, 2001, and the changes are not stopping in these economically uncertain times.

The events of that fateful day over 10 years ago undoubtedly had an impact upon the executive-legislative dynamic and raised challenging questions about the balance between issues of security and the rights of citizens. Governments continue to grapple with this, while parliamentarians have a role to play in ensuring an appropriate balance is found.

Congratulations on the tremendous contribution that you are making in the fields of political and legislative studies, Dr. Pelizzo. We appreciate the fact that you have taken the time to share your expertise with our parliamentary apparatus on security and terrorism related issues. There is no doubt that everyone concerned will benefit from your knowledge.

Thank you.