

Senate, appointed during the first session of the Twenty-eighth Parliament, for the period September 19, 1968 to date as follows: salaries, \$9,073, miscellaneous, \$55, total, \$9,128.

Respectfully submitted,

H. de M. Molson, Chairman.

Hon. Mr. Grosart: I presume Senator Molson, in deference to Rule 3, was proposing to set aside Rule 78 (3).

Hon. Mr. Molson: I thank Senator Grosart for his help.

Motion agreed to.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

MOTION FOR ADDRESS IN REPLY—
DEBATE CONTINUED

The Senate resumed from Thursday, October 23, consideration of His Excellency the Governor General's speech at the opening of the session, and the motion of Hon. Mr. Desruisseaux, seconded by Hon. Mr. Everett, for an address in reply thereto.

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, is it agreed that the honourable Senator Choquette, the Acting Leader of the Opposition, will speak instead of the honourable Senator Flynn?

Hon. Senators: Agreed.

Hon. Lionel Choquette: Honourable senators, I am sure I speak for all of us when I offer to the leader of our party in the Senate, the honourable Senator Jacques Flynn, our most sincere condolences.

It is difficult for a man to lose any loved one, but it is especially difficult to lose the one who gave him life, who guided and protected him through his formative years, and who saw him safely into manhood. Mothers seem all to have a way of becoming a part of their offspring. As a result, when such a beloved creature passes on, the grief of a dutiful and loving son must be ineffable. We extend to Senator Flynn our profound sympathy.

Under the circumstances, it becomes incumbent upon me as Deputy Leader of our party in the Senate to deliver the Opposition's first reply to the Speech from the Throne. However, before launching into the diatribe against the Throne Speech, which the Government Leader has indicated he expects, may I be permitted, honourable senators, a few less venomous remarks.

I should first like to thank our honourable Speaker, Senator Deschatelets, for the incomparably efficient way in which he has guided this chamber through its deliberations. It is evident the man is endowed with the wisdom of Solomon and the patience of Job.

To the honourable Senator Martin I extend my most heartfelt condolences on the loss, of a few days ago, of his brother.

I would add that the first session has made it quite manifest that the Government Leader in the Senate negotiated the transition from the frenetic Commons to the placid Senate without any ill effects. I am thus led to conclude that he is really very happy here with us—as happy as we are to have an aggressive, stimulating, articulate and shrewd gentleman with whom to cross swords.

To Senator Desruisseaux who moved the motion for an Address in Reply, I should like to say that it is always a pleasure to listen to so erudite and eloquent a gentleman. It does lead to confusion, however, for after his laudatory analysis of the Throne Speech, I just could not believe we both had listened to the same Throne Speech last Thursday morning.

I wish also to extend congratulations to Senator Everett. The honourable gentleman's allocution seconding the motion for an Address in Reply bore all the marks of a highly incisive mind. His pellucid analysis of the problem of regional disparities led me to hope that he would continue to address himself to the major problems which afflict this country. Certainly we would all be interested to learn what he sees as possible solutions.

With your permission, honourable senators, I shall now proceed to apprise you of my assessment of the content of the Speech from the Throne.

It is manifest from this, the second excuse for a Throne Speech by the present administration, that the Government is devoid of purpose; that it lacks direction; that it is wallowing in a quagmire of indecision. In effect, it was a plethora of platitudes.

A Throne Speech is supposed to chart the course, to set the theme for the coming year or so. Where we are going remains a mystery even after the Throne Speech. Someone in the Prime Minister's vast retinue should have told the right honourable gentleman that you do not offer comic relief at the beginning of a mystery story.