

The Hon. the SPEAKER: Do other honourable members wish to speak to the point of order?

Hon. Mr. MURDOCK: Surely there is no point of order involved.

The Hon. the SPEAKER: On the point of order raised by the honourable junior member from Winnipeg (Hon. Mr. Haig), I would remind honourable senators that we have been transgressing the Rules during the past few days; there is no question about that. Under the Rules a report can only be taken into consideration forthwith by unanimous consent. The honourable member from Parkdale objected, and thereupon only one course was left open to me: to declare that the report would be taken up at the next sitting of the House.

Hon. Mr. WHITE: Honourable members, my honourable friend from Parkdale a few moments ago said he would consent to proceed with consideration of the report if given time to get his papers. I should like him to equip himself so that we may dispose of the matter now.

Hon. Mr. MURDOCK: Do it to-morrow.

Hon. Mr. HAIG: All right. That is an old game two can play at.

Hon. Mr. BLACK: Honourable members, it seems to me unfortunate that we did not begin this discussion when the first report was presented. Then we might have objected to them all. But to hold up the last item is, I think, manifestly unfair. I am willing that the Senate should reconsider all the reports, though I am not prepared to say that the remuneration is too high. As to the recommendation now before us, I agree with my honourable friend to my left (Hon. Mr. Dennis) that the remuneration of our press reporters is not excessive; in fact it is very modest. Further, I agree with him that for many years the proceedings of the Senate were given no publicity whatever in the press of the country, and that for the past few years there has been a great improvement in this respect. It is, I believe, for the benefit of the country generally that full publicity should be given to the proceedings of this House, since some of the most important legislation is either initiated here or so amended by the Senate as to be of real value to the country. Personally, I am strongly in favour of the report—

Some Hon. SENATORS: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. BLACK: —and I do not think it should be quashed on technical grounds.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. BLACK.

Hon. Mr. MURDOCK: It is rather difficult for me to ignore so many suggestions that these reports should be dealt with. On the understanding that early next session I shall place on the Order Paper a list of questions which I hope will elicit the facts in this case, I withdraw my objection now.

Hon. Mr. BLACK: Thank you. That is satisfactory.

The motion was agreed to.

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Hon. Mr. WHITE presented, and moved concurrence in, the eighth and ninth reports of the Standing Committee on Internal Economy and Contingent Accounts.

The motion was agreed to.

FARMERS' CREDITORS ARRANGEMENT BILL

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

The Hon. the SPEAKER presented the following message from the House of Commons:

Resolved that a message be sent to the Senate to acquaint Their Honours that with respect to Bill No. 25, an Act to amend the Farmers' Creditors Arrangement Act, 1934, this House has substituted a further amendment agreed upon at the Free Conference with the Senate in lieu of the Senate's second amendment, to which the House had disagreed and on which the Senate had insisted; and to request the concurrence of the Senate thereto.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Honourable senators, I move, seconded by Right Hon. Mr. Meighen—since we were both Managers of that Free Conference—that the Senate concur in the amendment which is now submitted to this Chamber.

The motion was agreed to.

PENITENTIARY BILL

FIRST READING

A message was received from the House of Commons with Bill 175, an Act respecting Penitentiaries.

The Bill was read the first time.

SECOND READING

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND moved the second reading of the Bill.

He said: Honourable senators will find on the right-hand page of the Bill this short explanatory note:

The general object of this Bill is to establish a commission with power, under the Minister of Justice, to control and manage the penitentiaries. At present the penitentiaries are