

My reason for presenting this motion is that probably next week there will come before us from the other place a measure, based upon the report, which has to do with Canada's participation in the international conference on food and agriculture. In the meantime I think it will be advantageous to have this report before the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Forestry, where departmental officials who have detailed knowledge of the subject may be heard. In this way we shall become better acquainted with the measure and more able to appreciate its full significance.

This interim commission was established by the United Nations Conference on Food and Agriculture, held in May, 1943, at Hot Springs, Virginia, in an effort to solve on an international scale the problem of surplus food production in some countries and the shortage or even lack of food in others.

Canada has taken a prominent part in this international effort, in that the Canadian Ambassador to the United States was the first chairman of the conference; and I notice that Canada's proposed contribution to the contemplated budget comes immediately after the contributions of the United States, the United Kingdom, the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics, China and France. Indeed it represents 5.6 per cent of the total budget as against France's suggested contribution of 5.69 per cent. For the benefit of those who are interested in our fisheries, I may say that I understand our delegates are particularly anxious to have the international association give greater recognition to the possibilities of fish as a food, and I believe that already they have achieved considerable success in that direction. Honourable senators, particularly the honourable senator from Northumberland (Hon. Mr. Burchill), who is a past president of the Canadian Forestry Association, will be interested to know that the report gives considerable prominence to forestry production. I am confident that the information to be submitted to our committee will help us when the measure to which I have referred comes before us for formal consideration.

I cannot say at the moment just when the Committee on Agriculture will meet. The honourable senator from South Bruce (Hon. Mr. Donnelly) who so courteously and efficiently presides over that Committee will not be in Ottawa until next week. When he arrives I will consult with him, and perhaps, if it is convenient, we will have the meeting next Tuesday. I should like it to be held as soon as possible so that we may have before us all the information available when we come to a consideration of the measure itself, for it is

desirable that this measure should have Canada's ratification before the 16th of October, the date on which the international conference takes place in Quebec.

I would advise honourable senators, particularly the newer ones, that although the report will be referred to the Committee on Agriculture, this does not mean that anyone will be debarred from attending. It simply means that only members of the committee will be entitled to vote. Every member of the Senate has a right to attend the committee meetings, and I would urge all who are interested to do so, for I am hopeful and confident that some enlightening information will be forthcoming.

I would move, with the concurrence of the House, that this report be referred to the Committee on Agriculture and Forestry.

The motion was agreed to.

#### EMERGENCY SITTINGS OF THE SENATE

##### MOTION

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON moved:

That for the duration of the present Session of Parliament, should an emergency arise during any adjournment of the Senate, which would in the opinion of the honourable the Speaker warrant that the Senate meet prior to the time set forth in the motion for such adjournment, the honourable the Speaker be authorized to notify honourable senators at their addresses registered with the Clerk of the Senate to meet at a time earlier than that set out in the motion for such adjournment, and non-receipt by any one or more honourable senators of such call shall not have any effect upon the sufficiency and validity thereof.

He said: Honourable senators, this is the motion of which I gave notice yesterday.

Hon. Mr. LEGER: Honourable senators, personally, should be happier if the Leader of the Senate would add after the words "authorized" in the seventh line, the words "on three days previous notice". The motion as it stands would permit the members who remain in Ottawa to assemble here and pass any legislation that might be ready. This was done, to mention an extreme case, when war was declared on Japan, and yet the province most vulnerable to attack was not represented here at all. We declared war before the United States did so, and before we had been attacked, at least in a physical sense. It seems to me that we should have some notice. We represent the provinces. A province most vitally concerned in some legislation might be prejudicially affected by reason of not being represented, therefore, it seems to me only reasonable that some advance notice should be given. If it is deemed desirable to let the motion go as it