

PRIVATE BILLS

BRITISH COLUMBIA TELEPHONE COMPANY—
FIRST READING

Hon. J. W. deB. Farris presented bill B, respecting British Columbia Telephone Company.

The bill was read the first time.

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, when shall this bill receive second reading?

Hon. Mr. Farris: Thursday next.

BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY OF CANADA—
FIRST READING

Hon. William H. Golding, for Hon. Paul H. Bouffard, presented Bill C, respecting The Bell Telephone Company of Canada.

The bill was read the first time.

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, when shall this bill receive second reading?

Hon. Mr. Golding: Thursday next.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

MOTION FOR ADDRESS IN REPLY—
DEBATE ADJOURNED

The Senate proceeded to consideration of Her Majesty the Queen's Speech at the opening of the First Session of the Twenty-third Parliament.

Hon. George S. White moved:

That the following Address be presented to Her Majesty the Queen to offer the humble thanks of this house to Her Majesty for the gracious Speech which She has been pleased to make to both Houses of Parliament namely:

To the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty:
Most Gracious Sovereign:

We Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Senate of Canada, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to offer our humble thanks to Your Majesty for the gracious Speech which Your Majesty has addressed to both Houses of Parliament.

Hon. George S. White: Honourable senators, on this the first occasion that I rise to speak in this chamber I have the great honour to move the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne by Her Gracious Majesty. A week ago yesterday will be a day long to be remembered as a memorable day for Canada. As the Prime Minister has said, it was the Queen's day. I think it was also Canada's day, for history was made in this chamber. And those of us who were privileged to witness the ceremony would indeed be hard-hearted not to be moved in witnessing the centuries-old tradition of the sovereign opening parliament. Her Majesty, as Queen of Canada, for the first time in history, opened our Parliament. Outside there was brilliant autumn sunshine, the unforgettable

touch of our flaming coloured trees, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the cheering thousands, and inside this chamber pageantry, colour and history.

On the Sunday evening when Her Majesty spoke to the nation over television she used these words:

There are long periods when life seems a small, dull round, a petty business with no point, and then suddenly we are caught up in some great event which gives us a glimpse of the solid and durable foundation of our existence. I hope that tomorrow will be such an occasion.

It was such an occasion, for Canada in its loyalty to the Crown was serving a broad tradition that is beyond boundaries and barriers. It is the tradition of things rich and needful for human life—the rights of Parliament, the reign of law, the liberty of the person from tyranny, the spirit of fairness, the wisdom of compromise, the distrust of excess, the willingness to abide by the people's choice, the acceptance of duty that calls for service beyond the advantages of self. These are the precious things we value and which are vested in the Crown, as a symbol beyond change of party. That loyalty is not merely national but, more deeply, loyalty to values that have endured, and which only loyalty can uphold.

While this chamber awaited the arrival of the members of the House of Commons, I am sure that there passed through many honourable senators' minds a little bit or perhaps a great deal of history. Perhaps they thought of King John at Runnymede, of the first parliament, of the pioneers who left the old land, crossed the seas and brought their beliefs with them, or of some of the warriors who fought so hard for parliamentary rights and self-government, of the growth of this nation, the Fathers of Confederation, the First World War, the significance of Canada signing the Treaty of Versailles, the Statute of Westminster and many other incidents in the history of our nation.

I am sure, honourable senators, that no one who was here will ever forget the beauty, charm and quiet dignity of Her Majesty as she played her part in observing and carrying out of these ancient rituals.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. White: I felt the two opening paragraphs of the Speech from the Throne most significantly. They read as follows:

I greet you as your Queen. Together we constitute the Parliament of Canada. For the first time the representatives of the people of Canada and their sovereign are here assembled on the occasion of the opening of Parliament. This is for all of us a moment to remember.