

THE SENATE

Wednesday, September 6, 1950

The Senate met at 3 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

ADDRESS IN REPLY

The Senate resumed from yesterday, consideration of His Excellency the Governor General's speech at the opening of the session and the motion of Hon. Mr. Dupuis for an Address in reply thereto.

Hon. J. W. de B. Farris: Honourable senators, after I returned to the hotel yesterday I gave some further thought to what my honourable friend the leader opposite (Hon. Mr. Haig) had said earlier in the afternoon in reply to my question. The reply which my honourable friend made reminded me of a story that I had heard.

Hon. Mr. Haig: I thought so.

Hon. Mr. Farris: I told it to some of my honourable colleagues last evening, and they said that I should tell it to the house.

Some Hon. Senator: Go ahead.

Hon. Mr. Farris: The reply which the leader opposite gave to my question left the complete implication that he knew the answer.

Hon. Mr. Haig: No, no! On a point of order, I protest that I never said that.

Hon. Mr. Farris: The honourable gentleman did not say it, but that was the implication.

Hon. Mr. Haig: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of privilege. If the gentleman will quote my remarks in *Hansard* I will accept that, but not otherwise.

Hon. Mr. Farris: Honourable senators, I dealt with this matter yesterday. I say that the implication which I drew from my friend's answer—

Hon. Mr. Haig: But my friend cannot give implications; he must go to *Hansard* and quote what I said.

Hon. Mr. Farris: I said that that was the implication I took from it.

Hon. Mr. Haig: You cannot do that. You cannot draw an implication unless you quote what you are referring to and then prove that it is a natural implication to draw.

The Hon. the Speaker: I would ask the honourable senator from Vancouver South

(Hon. Mr. Farris) to read over the words to which he is referring.

Hon. Mr. Farris: My friend did not challenge this last night when it was red hot. The reference is to be found in *Hansard*, in the second column of page 30. The honourable leader opposite said:

It is not as important, perhaps, as the Korean situation, but it is an every-day topic of conversation and is the anxious concern of every householder in this country. Yet the government offers no solution for this problem.

My friend was speaking about the high cost living. I then ventured the very simple question, "What do you suggest?" and my friend replied:

I expected that some distinguished gentleman would ask me that question. My reply is that that is one question which I do not have to answer, because I am not responsible for government policy.

Then I ventured the observation:

An answer might be very useful to the country.

My friend did not then say, "Well, I have no answer. I do not know". He had this to say:

I am not a supporter of government policy. The government got itself elected a year ago on a promise that it would do a good job, and so on. Now what is the government doing?

He went on to say what the government was doing, and then, as my honourable friend will recall, he said that he had once made a mistake in Manitoba when he told the government what to do, and the government as a result of taking his advice saved a million dollars for the province. I gathered the inference that he was not going to make that mistake again.

Hon. Mr. Haig: I did not say that.

Hon. Mr. Farris: No, but I think that is a fair inference.

Hon. Mr. Haig: No, you cannot draw that inference.

Hon. Mr. Farris: So I think that is sufficient grounds for me to tell a story.

Hon. Mr. Haig: I object. I happen to know the story, and I object to my honourable friend drawing any such inference from what I said.

Hon. Mr. Farris: I leave it to each honourable senator to form his own opinion about that.

Hon. Mr. Haig: No. You cannot make a speech on that.

Hon. Mr. Beaubien: Oh, yes he can.

Hon. Mr. Haig: You cannot impute to me a statement that I never made, and then tell a joke of which I would be the butt.