

THE SENATE

Wednesday, November 23, 1960

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

Prayers.

Hon. Walter M. Aseltine: Honourable senators, I seek the indulgence of the Senate at this time, and ask leave to postpone the usual preliminaries until later this day so that we may proceed at once with consideration of the Speech from the Throne. This afternoon we expect to hear the mover and the seconder of the motion, and the honourable Leader of the Opposition (Hon. Mr. Macdonald, Brantford) also wishes to speak. It is on this account that I seek the indulgence of the Senate.

Hon. Senators: Agreed.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

MOTION FOR ADDRESS IN REPLY—
DEBATE ADJOURNED

The Senate proceeded to consideration of His Excellency the Governor General's speech at the opening of the session.

Hon. A. J. Brooks moved, seconded by Hon. L. P. Beaubien:

That the following Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General to offer the humble thanks of this house to His Excellency for the gracious speech which he has been pleased to make to both Houses of Parliament, namely:

To His Excellency Major-General Georges P. Vanier, Companion of the Distinguished Service Order upon whom has been conferred the Military Cross and the Canadian Forces Decoration, Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada.

May it please Your Excellency:

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

He said: Honourable senators, it is a great honour which has been extended to me by the honourable Leader of the Government in the Senate (Hon. Mr. Aseltine) in inviting me to move the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. It takes my mind back some 35 years, when I was first elected to the Legislature of New Brunswick. I had

the honour at that time of moving the address on my first session in the Legislature. I was, as I well recall, quite nervous and considerably overawed at the responsibility placed upon me. I do not mind confessing that, after all these years, I still feel somewhat the same this afternoon. However, I survived, as you can see. One of the criticisms made of my speech, as I remember, was that it was too long. I will try not to make the same mistake this afternoon.

At the outset, may I say that I feel very much at home here in this beautiful chamber. Having been a member of the House of Commons for 25 years, I had the pleasure and opportunity of meeting and knowing many of my colleagues whom I see here today. I have known the Leader of the Government in the Senate (Hon. Mr. Aseltine) for the past 25 years. He was one of the first gentlemen I met after I came to Ottawa. The Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Hon. Mr. Macdonald, Brantford) and I entered the House of Commons at the same time, and I have followed his distinguished career with very much pleasure.

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Brooks: I said a moment ago that I feel very much at home here—to come here really seems almost like coming home—and I wish to express at once my great appreciation of the kind reception accorded me by members on both sides of the chamber after my induction a few days ago, and again this afternoon. I understand that the honour of moving and seconding the address, both in the Senate and the House of Commons—I suppose I should say “the other place”—is usually extended to new members. I take it that is part of our initiation as freshmen into one of these houses.

May I say, honourable senators, how pleased I am that I was inducted with the two other new senators who took their seats at the same time as myself, namely, the gracious and distinguished lady from Victoria, Quebec, the Honourable Josie D. Quart, and the honourable senator from Bedford, the Honourable L. P. Beaubien. I am sure they are going to prove themselves very worthy of this august and honourable body.

Hon. Mr. Macdonald (Brantford): Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Brooks: Honourable senators, from listening to many speeches made by movers and seconders of the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne in the other chamber, for 25 years, I have learned that they pretty well follow a definite pattern, the cornerstone of which seems to be the saying of nice things about your own constituency and your own province. You will