

Hon. Mr. Smith moved that the bill be placed on the Orders of the Day for second reading on Thursday next.

Motion agreed to.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

MOTION FOR ADDRESS IN REPLY—DEBATE CONTINUED

The Senate resumed from Thursday, October 4, consideration of His Excellency the Governor General's speech at the opening of the session, and the motion of Hon. Mr. Haig, seconded by Hon. Mr. Fournier (Madawaska-Restigouche), for an address in reply thereto.

Hon. A. J. Brooks: Honourable senators, allow me to join with those who have spoken already in this debate, to express my congratulations to our distinguished Speaker. We have all heard with great pleasure of his appointment to the Chair of this chamber. He brings to the post great distinction and dignity. I sincerely hope that he enjoys presiding over our deliberations as much as we enjoy having him do so and that he will continue as chief custodian of our rules and privileges for many years to come. To me it gives a special pleasure to see an old and distinguished friend and comrade receive such a high honour.

I welcome the honourable senator from La Salle (Hon. Mr. Drouin) to the floor of the Senate. As our honourable Speaker for the past several sessions he was necessarily confined in his remarks to that sphere. We look forward now to his active participation in the debates of the Senate. The wisdom and insight which he displayed as Speaker promise us an excellent contribution. Few men are better qualified.

Again honourable senators, I would like for a moment to pay tribute to my affable and capable colleague (Hon. Mr. Aseltine) whose duties I have assumed as Leader of the Government. I hope that when my turn comes to lay aside this task, be it early or late, it can be said of me, as is said now of the honourable senator from Rosetown (Hon. Mr. Aseltine), that he has the respect and admiration of all parties.

Very shortly after I was appointed, I received a letter from Senator Aseltine warmly congratulating me and offering any assistance he could give. I was not surprised, and gratefully accepted his offer. I expect to rely heavily on his long experience, particularly during this session of Parliament. May I say, honourable senators, that I feel I am indeed fortunate to have the honourable senator from Rosetown (Hon. Mr. Aseltine) on my left and the honourable senator from Ottawa East

(Hon. Mr. Choquette) on my right. They will probably keep me fairly straight.

I am grateful too for the ready help and advice that many senators have promised me as a new boy at the desk of the Leader of the Government. If the addresses we have heard from the mover (Hon. Mr. Haig) and the seconder (Hon. Mr. Fournier, Madawaska-Restigouche), for an address in reply to the Speech from the Throne are a fair sample of what we may expect from the new senators we have welcomed to this chamber, the Senate will be indeed enriched by their presence. The quality of Senator Haig's fine speech on Wednesday last came as no surprise to those familiar with his success at the Manitoba Bar and his reputation in the city of Winnipeg. I offer him my heartiest congratulations, both on his accession to this body and on his first contribution to our debates. Honourable senators, I could not help feeling how proud his distinguished father, who was a member of the Senate for so many years, would have been had he been present to hear his distinguished son deliver his speech the other day.

Hon. Mr. Connolly (Ottawa West): Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Brooks: The seconder of the address in reply, the honourable senator from Madawaska-Restigouche (Hon. Mr. Fournier) comes from my native province and has long been a personal friend of mine. His service to the province of New Brunswick and to the Acadian people he represents is well known there. He brings to this chamber a wide experience in public affairs. I congratulate him, too, upon his splendid maiden speech of Wednesday last. I might say, honourable senators, that he had a short time to prepare, since he became a senator only a few days before the Senate opened, for which he deserves all the more credit. I compliment him for the excellence of his speech, both in material and delivery.

Again I extend my welcome and hearty congratulations to our new senators. I can truthfully say we have one of the most promising and able freshmen classes that ever entered this chamber. This includes one of Canada's most able and successful businessmen, the honourable senator from Gormley (Hon. Mr. McCutcheon). We are proud and happy that he was chosen a member of Prime Minister Diefenbaker's cabinet. Senator Grattan O'Leary is one whose reputation as a journalist and orator is second to none in Canada. Senators Haig and Willis are outstanding members of the Canadian Bar. We have an outstanding businessman and organizer in Senator Grosart; we have a former minister of a provincial house and an expert