

THE SENATE

Thursday, February 23, 1950

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

Prayers and routine proceedings.

COMMITTEE OF SELECTION

CONCURRENCE IN REPORT

Hon. W. A. Buchanan presented the report of the Committee of Selection.

(See appendix at end of today's report.)

Hon. Mr. Robertson: Honourable senators, before the question as to consideration is put to the house, may I say a word of explanation? It may be recalled that a year ago when the report of the Committee of Selection was presented and a motion was made for its adoption, the objection was raised, and properly, that the report should not be adopted before it had been printed in our proceedings. I agreed with the objection and gave the undertaking that so long as I had any responsibility in the house I would not ask that a report of this kind be adopted on the same day as presented. I call attention to that now for a special reason. As I think honourable members know, it is expected that, with the co-operation of the various parties in another place, a bill to amend the Unemployment Insurance Act will be passed there this week, and it is desired to have it passed here also in time to receive Royal Assent not later than the 28th of the month, in order that the measure may become operative on the 1st of March.

If I were to follow the procedure which a year or two ago I undertook to follow, the report of the Committee of Selection would be laid on the Table today and would appear in our printed proceedings tomorrow, when, perhaps, it would be adopted. After that there would have to be organization meetings before the various committees could function. It had been my intention to move that when the house adjourns today it stand adjourned until Monday evening; but if we are to have a committee available to deal with the Unemployment Insurance Bill on Tuesday morning, I have no alternative but to ask either that the report of the Committee of Selection be considered as it is, or else that we meet here tomorrow in order to adopt it. I do not see any other way of handling the matter. I am in the hands of the Senate as to what should be done.

This is the first report of the Committee of Selection for the present session, and it comprises nominations for every committee

except the Committee on Divorce. As to other committees, in most cases the Committee of Selection acquiesced in suggestions made by individual senators. Vacancies have been left in the membership of certain committees, and if after the report has been printed, any honourable senator would like to be appointed to a committee to which he has not been nominated, I shall be happy to take the matter into consideration and, if there is a vacancy, make the appropriate motion for his appointment.

In these circumstances I would ask the house, despite the representations I made a year or so ago, to accept the present report without going through the tedious performance of having all the names read. If that suggestion is not agreeable to honourable members, I see no alternative to meeting tomorrow, in order that a committee may be available for consideration of the Unemployment Insurance Bill on Tuesday. Unless objection is raised, I will suggest that the house give the report immediate consideration.

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, when shall the report be considered?

Some Hon. Senators: Now.

Hon. Mr. Buchanan: Honourable senators, I move that the committee's report be concurred in.

The motion was agreed to.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON LIBRARY

MESSAGE TO THE COMMONS

Hon. Mr. Robertson: Honourable senators, with leave, I now desire to move:

That a message be sent to the House of Commons by one of the Clerks at the Table, to inform that house that the Honourable the Speaker, the Honourable Senators Aseeltine, Aylesworth (Sir Allen), Blais, David, Fallis, Gershaw, Gouin, Jones, Lambert, Leger, MacLennan, McDonald, Reid, Vien and Wilson, have been appointed a committee to assist the Honourable the Speaker in the direction of the Library of Parliament, so far as the interests of the Senate are concerned and to act on behalf of the Senate as members of a joint committee of both houses on the said library.

The motion was agreed to.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON PRINTING

MESSAGE TO THE COMMONS

Hon. Mr. Robertson: Honourable senators, with leave, I move:

That a message be sent to the House of Commons by one of the Clerks at the Table, to inform that house that the Honourable Senators Barbour, Beau-bien, Blais, Bouffard, Burke, Comeau, Davies, Dennis, Euler, Fallis, Lacasse, Mullins, Nicol, Paquet, Stambaugh, Stevenson, Turgeon and Wood, have been appointed a committee to superintend the printing of the Senate during the present session, and to act