THE SENATE

Friday, October 19, 1951

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

Prayers and routine proceedings.

BANKING AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE

ADDITION TO PERSONNEL

Hon. Mr. Robertson: Honourable senators, with leave of the Senate, I beg to move:

That the name of the Honourable Senator Wood be added to the list of senators now serving on the Standing Committee on Banking and Commerce.

May I add that the Whip has intimated to me that some of the senators named to the three Standing Committees whose membership we reduced would like some changes. However, the matter does not require immediate attention, for those committees had preliminary meetings this morning and decided not to hold further sittings until after the forthcoming adjournment of the Senate. It may be that by the time the Senate resumes some other members of committees may wish changes to be made. In this event all the changes could be dealt with at once.

CANADA'S PARTICIPATION IN PEACE EFFORTS

MOTION

Hon. Mr. Robertson moved:

Resolved, that this House approves the continuation of Canada's participation in the efforts being made through the United Nations to establish international peace, and in particular to defeat aggression and restore peace in Korea, and by the North Atlantic Treaty Nations to deter aggression and promote stability and well-being in the North Atlantic area.

He said: Honourable senators, there is little I need add by way of explanation to the wording of this resolution, of which notice was given.

The subject is not new. Canada has been associated with the United Nations in the military operations in Korea, and I am sure her participation has met with general approval. This resolution is being introduced in both Houses of Parliament, and its adoption will remove all doubt as to the acquiescence of parliament in the matter of sending Canadian forces out of the country from time to time.

Hon. John T. Haig: Honourable senators, I have no criticism whatsoever of the motion. Indeed, I believe that the policy of making it clear that parliament authorizes military participation is most appropriate.

I do not consider this a proper time to discuss any phases of the war in Korea or the proposal to send Canadian troops to Europe. I expressed myself on the matter of defence yesterday, and I emphasize my position today. I do not propose to discuss expenditures for military purposes because, in the first place, I am not properly informed, and secondly, I would not want anything that I or my associates might say to suggest in the slightest degree that there should be any hesitancy on the part of the people of Canada about standing four-square against aggression, whether it be in Korea or elsewhere.

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

The motion was agreed to.

TRANSPORTATION

REPORT OF ROYAL COMMISSION REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

Hon. Mr. Robertson moved:

That the Standing Committee on Transport and Communications be authorized to examine and report upon the Report of the Royal Commission on Transportation, and especially upon the proposal to equalize freight rates and the effect of such proposal on specific areas of Canada.

That the said committee be empowered to send for persons, papers and records.

That the committee be authorized to sit during adjournments of the Senate.

He said: Honourable senators, this motion and the two that follow it require little or no explanation. The purpose of the motions is to refer the report of the Royal Commission on Transportation to the Standing Committee on Transport and Communications, and to refer the programs of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to the Standing Committee on External Affairs and to refer the Public Accounts to the Finance Committee.

The motion was agreed to.

NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

PROGRAMS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

Hon. Mr. Robertson moved:

That the Standing Committee on External Relations be authorized to examine and report upon the problems involved in Canadian participation in the military and economic programs of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

That the said committee be empowered to send for persons, papers and records.

That the committee be authorized to sit during adjournments of the Senate.

The motion was agreed to.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS, 1950-51

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

Hon. Mr. Robertson moved:

That the Standing Committee on Finance be authorized to examine into and report upon the