

that policy. We must be united on our foreign policy if it is to succeed. This requires that all the people should know what we are doing, and nobody can tell them about it as well as those who are called upon to deal with it. In my city of Winnipeg, after returning from the meetings of the United Nations, I addressed quite a number of meetings. Now, I may be wrong, but I think that a good many people are still supporting the United Nations on the basis of the representations and facts that I gave them on those occasions. I think without those representations some events might have changed their minds in the meantime. I feel strongly that the United Nations meetings should be attended not only by Government supporters, but by representatives of the Opposition and of the other parties. That is very important indeed, honourable senators.

Now, I have come to the point where I want to say one or two things about the Senate. We are under quite a responsibility now, the greatest responsibility that the Senate has had since I entered this chamber in August 1935. My honourable friend from Rosetown (Hon. Mr. Aseltine) came here in December 1933, and my honourable friend from Ponteix (Hon. Mr. Marcotte) in 1931. Our great responsibility arises from the fact that the Government has not an overall majority in the House of Commons and we have to be very careful how we treat the business that comes from that chamber so that we will not mix up in any political struggle that may be going on there. I want to be very clear about that. I do not want this chamber ever to get mixed up in political affairs. To speak candidly, it has been charged against me by some of my friends that I have been too prone to help the Liberals. I do not believe that is so; but if I have ever given that impression let me tell my Liberal friends, to remove any possible impression that they "owe Haig something because he did something for them," that they do not owe me anything. What I have done I did because I believed, first, that it was best for Canada, and secondly, that it was best for the Senate. All I urge on the Opposition here is that, in reaching a decision upon any issue, if they cannot justify their proposed action as something which the Senate ought to do in the interests of Canada, and on that basis alone, they should not do it. If, however, they believe that some measure which is proposed by myself or my associates is in the interests of this country, their duty is plain. When I sat on the opposite benches I thought now and then that I should vote against this or that measure, but when the number in opposition becomes as small as ours—it fell to five—it is difficult to dispute the passage

of a Government measure in the way one might do with more support. If Government legislation is to pass this house it can be done only with the consent of the Opposition. But I do not want to be misunderstood. I am anxious that the men and women on the other side shall decide their course in the issues which will be before them. In that way they will perform the greatest service they can render to their country.

Let me say further that we on the Government side will do our best to promote efficiency in the work of the Senate. We hope to give fair consideration to everybody. We shall sit more regularly in the future than we have done in the past week or two. Last week we were handicapped because of the littered-up condition of the chamber. I expect that next week we shall receive seven bills from the other house. Bills relating to pensions and wheat will probably be here before the end of the week. From then on we shall be pretty busy, and I am not sure but that we shall have to sit much more frequently than we have done of late, because everybody is anxious to have the business of Parliament finished not later than the end of November, or very early in December.

I thank the house for having listened to me. I thank especially the present Leader of the Opposition (Hon. Mr. Macdonald) and his immediate predecessor, (Hon. Mr. Robertson): I shall use them as examples in trying to give service such as they gave to the Senate and to the people of Canada.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Gershaw, the debate was adjourned.

THE HON. THE SPEAKER

BIRTHDAY FELICITATIONS

Hon. Norman McL. Paterson: Honourable senators, may I be permitted to make a brief statement? I heard this morning that today is our Speaker's 54th birthday. If that is so, I should like very much to congratulate him.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, I cannot remove my hat in acknowledgment, and perhaps you have heard enough from me in the last few days. Thank you very much.

PRIVATE BILL

BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY OF CANADA— SECOND READING

Hon. Paul H. Bouffard moved the second reading of Bill C, respecting The Bell Telephone Company of Canada.