

THE SENATE

Tuesday, December 20, 1983

The Senate met at 2 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers.

[*Translation*]

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS IN GALLERY

MR. HABIB THIAM, PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF SENEGAL, AND MRS. THIAM

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, I wish to draw your attention to the presence in our gallery of Mr. Habib Thiam, President of the National Assembly of Senegal, and Mrs. Thiam. Mr. Thiam is also President of the Association internationale des parlementaires de langue française. Last night, Mr. Thiam, as chancellor of the Ordre de la Pléiade, gave the decorations to the recipients of this order, including the Right Honourable Pierre Elliott Trudeau, the Honourable Robert Stanfield and the Honourable Gildas Molgat.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Martial Asselin: Mr. Speaker, honourable senators, with your leave I shall, as vice-chairman of the Canadian chapter of this association, say a few words about our guests and perhaps inform our English-speaking compatriots on the objectives of our international association.

The AIPLF, which stands for Association internationale des parlementaires de langue française, has a membership of parliamentarians from forty countries who use French in their parliamentary proceedings.

The objectives of the association are to promote cultural exchange and use of the French language among our own members and at the international level.

It is also one of our objectives to facilitate the cultural and economic development of our members. Our discussions deal not only with language and communications but also with cultural and economic exchange among the various parliaments, since this is an association for parliamentarians.

This year, we were honoured to have as international President Mr. Habib Thiam, who for several years was a Minister in Senegal and then Prime Minister, under the presidency of Mr. Diouf. With him in the gallery are his wife and Mr. Christian Valentin, one of our African parliamentarians who has worked very hard to promote and expand the use of the French language through the parliaments of this world.

The ambassador of Senegal is also present, accompanied by his wife.

I would like to add that the parliamentary secretary of the association in Senegal, Mr. Seydou Ba, is also with His Excellency Mr. Thiam.

As the Canadian national vice-president of this association, I wish to extend on behalf of the Senate a very cordial welcome to His Excellency, with the assurance that the Senate fully understands the purpose and objectives of our association. We wish him a very pleasant stay here in Canada.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

[*English*]

PRIVATE BILLS

MARRIAGE LAW EXEMPTION (GERALD HARVEY FUDGE AND AUDREY MARIE SAUNDERS)—FIRST READING

Hon. Fernand-E. Leblanc presented Bill S-2, to provide an exception from the public general law relating to marriage in the case of Gerald Harvey Fudge and Audrey Marie Saunders.

Bill read first time.

[*Translation*]

The Hon. the Speaker: When shall this bill be read the second time?

Hon. Fernand-E. Leblanc: I move that this bill be placed on the Orders of the Day for second reading on Monday, January 16, 1984.

The Hon. the Speaker: Is it the pleasure of honourable senators to adopt this motion?

Hon. Martial Asselin: I have not heard the date which Senator Leblanc has suggested for second reading.

Senator Leblanc: I suggested January 16, 1984, because the House of Commons will return on that date. If for whatever reason the Senate does not sit on that day, second reading would take place as soon as we return.

Hon. Royce Frith (Acting Leader of the Government): I should like to explain that although the date of January 16, 1984, has been chosen, it should not be inferred automatically that the Senate will return on January 16. That date has been chosen because it is the date on which the other place should return, under its Standing Orders. For the time being, we are planning to return either on January 23 or 24; the bill, therefore, will be automatically placed on the Orders of the Day for second reading on the date of our return.

Senator Asselin: That is why I am asking if it would not have been easier to place this bill on the Orders of the Day for second reading on the date of our return, namely, January 24. Is there any reason why second reading should not be set on the date of our return?

Senator Frith: We have not yet decided when the Senate will return. The date of our return, for the time being, is the one which has been suggested, although it has been discussed