

THE SENATE

Tuesday, October 18, 1966

The Senate met at 8 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers.

CONSUMER CREDIT (COST OF LIVING)

JOINT COMMITTEE—CHANGES IN COMMONS MEMBERSHIP

The Hon. the Speaker informed the Senate that messages had been received from the House of Commons to acquaint the Senate that the name of Mr. Gray has been substituted for that of Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale), the names of Messrs. Smith, McLelland and Code for those of Messrs. Hees, Coates and Bell (Saint John-Albert), the name of Mr. Scott (Danforth) for that of Mr. Cameron (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands), and the names of Messrs. Whelan and Choquette for those of Messrs. Deachman and Matte on the Joint Committee on Consumer Credit and Cost of Living.

DEPUTY GOVERNMENT LEADER IN THE SENATE

APPOINTMENT OF HON. JEAN-PAUL DESCHATELETS TO SUCCEED HON. CYRILLE VAILLANCOURT

Hon. John J. Connolly: Honourable senators, I am happy to announce that the Honourable Jean-Paul Deschatelets, following discussions with his colleagues from the Province of Quebec and his French-speaking colleagues in the Senate, has agreed to become my deputy in this chamber.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Connolly (Ottawa West): Senator Deschatelets is relatively new to the Senate, but in the short time he has been here I am sure he has made many friends, and he has demonstrated his great capacity as a parliamentarian. This is not a matter of any surprise, for he has been in Parliament for some 12 years. As a minister of the Crown, he was Minister of Public Works, an honour shared by Senator Walker during a different period. It is a distinction to have both these gentlemen in the Senate with us after their records of achievement in that important department of Government.

In thanking Senator Deschatelets for agreeing to assume these new duties, I should also like to pay a special tribute at this time to the work that has been done through the years by Senator Vaillancourt as Deputy Leader, not only as my able assistant, but also when he acted in a similar capacity for the honourable Senator Ross Macdonald when he was leader. I have expressed my warm appreciation to Senator Vaillancourt on other occasions, but I do want to say to him again, although he is not present tonight, how deep the debt is that I owe him, and what a notable contribution he has made to the work of the Senate.

We have had a problem in that our late, lamented colleague from Quebec, Senator Bouffard, who assumed the deputy leadership at the beginning of the session, suffered a serious failing of health, resulting in his death. Senator Bouffard was an ornament to the Senate and indeed to the post of deputy to the leader.

I have complete confidence, which I am sure is shared by all honourable senators, that Senator Deschatelets will live up to the great traditions of the Senate in carrying his responsibilities which, I warn him, will be much heavier than he may now appreciate.

Hon. A. J. Brooks: Honourable senators, I take this opportunity of congratulating Senator Deschatelets on his appointment.

We on this side of the chamber are very pleased to hear that the honourable Leader of the Government is getting some help, because we have been concerned about the huge amount of work he has had to do. He deserves great credit for carrying on without assistance up to this time.

I wish also to join with Senator Connolly in the remarks he made with respect to Senator Vaillancourt—a quiet, fine, effective gentleman, and one whom all of us in this house respect.

Senator Deschatelets, we congratulate you on your very rapid promotion. I know of few men who have come up as quickly as you have, or who have come along the road so fast. I am not going to wish you a long term of office, because I feel you will not have it. However, for the short time in which you are going to adorn the office of Deputy Leader of the Government, I wish you every success.

[Translation]

Hon. Jean-Paul Deschatelets: Honourable senators, I thank the Leader of the Government and the Leader of the Opposition for their kind words, as well as all of you, my