

THE SENATE

Friday, June 25, 1948.

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

Prayer and routine proceedings.

CANADA-NEW ZEALAND INCOME TAX AGREEMENT BILL

FIRST READING

A message was received from the House of Commons with Bill 395, an Act respecting an Income Tax Agreement between Canada and New Zealand, signed at Ottawa, in Canada, on the twelfth day of March, 1948.

The bill was read the first time.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

REPORT OF JOINT COMMITTEE

Hon. Mr. GOUIN presented the report of the Joint Committee on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

He said: Honourable senators, I shall move concurrence in this report at the next sitting.

Hon. Mr. ROEBUCK: Honourable senators, I should like to make a few comments with respect to the report, but unfortunately I will not be present at the next sitting. Would it not be possible to consider the report today?

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: Honourable senators, I have no particular view as to the procedure to be followed under the circumstances. I understand that the honourable senator from De Salaberry (Hon. Mr. Gouin) will not be prepared to give his explanation of the report until tomorrow.

Hon. Mr. GOUIN: I would ask that I be allowed to offer my explanation tomorrow, when I shall move concurrence in the report.

The Hon. the SPEAKER: The report is a long one. The honourable senator from De Salaberry has asked that it stand for consideration tomorrow. This will permit of its being printed in the record.

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

Hon. Mr. HAIG: Postponed until tomorrow.

Hon. Mr. HORNER: Would it not be possible to allow the honourable senator from Toronto-Trinity to speak today? The debate could then be adjourned until tomorrow.

The Hon. the SPEAKER: The report is not before the Senate for consideration; it has

merely been presented, and will be printed. Whether the honourable senator from Toronto-Trinity should be granted leave to speak today is for the Senate to decide.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Tomorrow!

Hon. Mr. VIEN: Honourable senators, I think we should allow the honourable senator for Toronto-Trinity to proceed today. The debate could then be adjourned on the understanding that the honourable the chairman of the committee may make whatever explanation he wishes tomorrow.

The Hon. the SPEAKER: If that course is to be followed, the honourable the chairman of the committee should move that the report be considered now.

Hon. Mr. GOUIN: I accept that suggestion, on the understanding that tomorrow I shall have an opportunity to make the necessary explanation.

The Hon. the SPEAKER: With leave of the Senate, it is moved by Senator Gouin—

Hon. Mr. HAIG: Excuse me, honourable senators. I have no objection to the honourable member for Toronto-Trinity speaking to the motion, but I would point out that by allowing him to do so we are establishing a most dangerous precedent. The members of this house have not had an opportunity to read the report. Further, when I wished to speak on the Dominion Elections bill the other day my friend from Toronto-Trinity objected on the ground that no motion had been made, and I was not allowed to speak. A ruling which the other day was good for my honourable friend from Toronto is today good for me. I have not read the report, and therefore am not prepared to go on, nor to listen to a discussion of it. Furthermore, I do not believe that we should discuss a report until we have had a chance to read it and judge for ourselves as to its merits or demerits.

The Hon. the SPEAKER: Then leave to consider the report now is not granted?

Hon. Mr. HAIG: No.

The Hon. the SPEAKER: The report stands until tomorrow.

INCOME TAX BILL

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

Hon. ELIE BEAUREGARD presented and moved concurrence in the report of the Standing Committee on Banking and Commerce on Bill 338, an Act respecting Income Taxes.

He said: Honourable senators, the committee have, in obedience to the order of refer-