

to consider another bill on Wednesday afternoon when the Senate rises, it might consider this bill at the same time.

I move that the bill be referred to the Standing Committee on Transport and Communications.

The motion was agreed to.

## PRECIOUS METALS MARKING BILL

### SECOND READING

**Hon. A. K. Hugessen** moved second reading of Bill U-2, an Act to amend the Precious Metals Marking Act, 1946.

He said: Honourable senators, the sole purpose of this bill is to amend the Precious Metals Marking Act of 1946, so as to include within its provisions a precious metal known as palladium. I am informed that palladium is a white metallic element of the platinum group. In its pure state, it is malleable and ductile, and is slightly harder than gold or platinum. It can be hardened for jewellery manufacture by the addition of small amounts of another metal, usually ruthenium and this produces an all-platinum metal alloy that is wear-resisting, has the strength and toughness to retain gems permanently, is highly resistant to tarnish, and will retain a brilliant polish. This metal seems to have all the best qualities.

**Hon. Mr. Leger:** Is it found in Canada?

**Hon. Mr. Hugessen:** It is a derivative of platinum. The original Act, known as the Gold and Silver Stamping Act, was passed in 1906, and applied only to gold and silver. In 1928 the Act was amended to include platinum, and, with the coming into marketability of this new metal, it is now sought to amend the Act again so as to include palladium as one of the precious metals subject to its provisions.

I might add for the information of honourable members that this amendment has the endorsement of the Canadian Jewellers' Association.

**Hon. Mr. Crerar:** Can the honourable senator give us some idea as to what this new metal is worth?

**Hon. Mr. Hugessen:** I am afraid I am unable to do that; but I assume that as it is in the range of platinum it is a valuable metal.

The motion was agreed to, and the bill was read the second time.

### THIRD READING

**The Hon. the Speaker:** When shall the bill be read the third time?

**Hon. Mr. Hugessen:** If honourable senators feel that this bill is of sufficient importance

to be sent to committee, I shall be glad to so move; but as it seems to be a simple bill, I would move third reading now.

The motion was agreed to, and the bill was read the third time, and passed.

## SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

### ADDRESS IN REPLY

On the Order:

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion of the Honourable Senator Golding, seconded by the Honourable Senator Veniot, that an humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General for the gracious Speech which he has been pleased to deliver to both Houses of Parliament.—(Hon. Senator Horner).

**Hon. Mr. Horner:** Honourable senators, it was my intention, when I adjourned the debate, to adjourn it until Tuesday. However, I understand that the honourable the junior senator from Vancouver (Hon. Mr. McKeen) wishes to speak this evening, and I am quite willing to give him my place so long as I am allowed to again adjourn the debate until tomorrow.

**Some Hon. Senators:** Agreed.

The Senate resumed from March 23, the consideration of His Excellency the Governor General's speech at the opening of the session, and the motion of Hon. Mr. Golding for an Address in reply thereto.

**Hon. S. S. McKeen:** Honourable senators, I was rather shocked into entering this debate. The other day the honourable leader of the opposition (Hon. Mr. Haig) suggested that we should drop the TCA. His proposal hit me rather hard, but on thinking it over I have come to believe he was not too serious. He has a way of sometimes "needling" government supporters, thereby encouraging them to get up on their feet and tell the country what a good government it has. Perhaps that was his motive when he said that we should drop the TCA.

**Some Hon. Senators:** Oh, oh.

**Hon. Mr. McKeen:** Transportation is extremely important to any country. This is particularly true of Canada, so with the indulgence of the Senate I shall deal lightly with the early history of British Columbia. I hope my colleagues from Newfoundland will not laugh at the comparatively recent dates of the discoveries of our province, for our history does not go back more than a couple of hundred years and I know that the history of our new island province goes back five or six centuries or more.

Our province is far away, and time was when transportation there was not as good as it is now with the TCA. For this reason we did not have any early tourists. I believe