

THE SENATE

Thursday, January 21, 1960

The Senate met at 2.45 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers.

BUSINESS OF THE SENATE

Hon. W. M. Aseltine: Honourable senators, you are probably aware that there are two important bills now before the other house having to do with the disaster which struck the three Prairie provinces last October when their crops were snowed under. These bills are of such importance that the other place has seen fit to postpone the debate on the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne to give them priority. It is quite possible that one of these pieces of legislation, Bill C-32, to authorize provisional payments for the 1959-60 crop year in respect of un-threshed grain in the Prairie provinces, may be passed there today, and that another bill, to provide short-term credit to grain producers in the Prairie provinces, may then be proceeded with. About the only object that we would have in sitting tomorrow would be to give first reading to these bills. So I would throw myself upon the mercy of the Senate and ask for unanimous consent to proceed on Monday night with their second reading. We shall have to adjourn, I believe, until Monday for this purpose so that, if necessary, the bills can go to committee on Tuesday, come back for third reading, and receive, later in the week, royal assent.

The Hon. the Speaker: Would the Honourable Leader of the Government (Hon. Mr. Aseltine) kindly suspend his remarks? The Prime Minister of Japan is waiting in the antechamber.

THE PRIME MINISTER OF JAPAN

GUEST OF THE SENATE

The Honourable Nobusuke Kishi, Prime Minister of Japan, was escorted into the chamber by the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, and presented to and invited to take a place to the right of the Honourable the Speaker. Honourable senators stood until the Honourable Mr. Kishi was seated.

Hon. W. M. Aseltine: Honourable senators, I am very happy indeed to say how honoured and pleased we are to have with us in the Senate chamber this afternoon the distinguished Prime Minister of Japan, accompanied by his Minister of Foreign Affairs and other prominent members of his party.

We welcome you, Mr. Prime Minister, and all the members of your delegation most heartily, and on behalf of all of us I say that this visit will long be remembered by the members of the Canadian Senate as a very happy occasion.

We hope you will enjoy your visit to Canada and to our capital city. We also hope and feel that your visit to our country will be most informative and fruitful and will result in cementing the continued good will and friendly relations between our two nations.

We wish you and Japan well.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. W. Ross Macdonald: Honourable senators, as the Leader of the Government has said, it is indeed a happy occasion for us to have in the Senate this afternoon the Honourable Nobusuke Kishi, Prime Minister of Japan. Mr. Kishi has been in Canada only a few hours, but even in this short time I am sure that he has found that Canadians are a friendly people and that we count among our friends the people of Japan.

There are many reasons for this friendship but there is one which is often forgotten and that is that Canada and Japan are close neighbours. Japan is a neighbour on our west and we, in turn, are an eastern neighbour of Japan. The Pacific Ocean separates us one from the other by some thousands of miles, but by modern means of transportation we are separated only by a few hours.

Canada and Japan share many interests and aspirations, but the greatest of all is our mutual desire for peace; and to this end we, in common with Japan and other peace loving peoples, will continue to exert our every effort.

As Leader of the Opposition in the Senate, I wish to join with the Leader of the Government in extending to you, Mr. Prime Minister, a very genuine and warm welcome. May we also extend to you the very best of good wishes for your personal health and happiness and for the general well-being of those whom you represent.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Nobusuke Kishi, Prime Minister of Japan, then addressed the Senate in Japanese.

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, of course I understood every word the Prime Minister said, but to make sure I will read to the house an exact translation of his words:

I thank you very much for your warm words of welcome to us.

It is really a great pleasure and honour for us to meet you here in this solemn chamber which exemplifies the splendid traditions of Canada.