

THE SENATE

Wednesday, October 17, 1951

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

Prayers and routine proceedings.

COMMITTEE OF SELECTION

FIRST REPORT

Hon. A. K. Hugessen presented and moved concurrence in the report of the Committee of Selection.

He said: Honourable senators, before I submit the first report of the Committee of Selection there are a few words of explanation that I should offer the house.

Your committee met this morning, but we were faced with this difficulty, that there is on the Order Paper for consideration by the Senate this afternoon a resolution with reference to three of the standing committees of the Senate, and this resolution, if passed, will very considerably alter the numbers of members of these committees. I refer to the Committee on Transport and Communications, the Committee on Finance, and the Committee on External Relations. Your Selection Committee felt, therefore, that we could not properly make recommendations with reference to these three committees until the Senate has dealt with the resolution moved by the honourable leader (Hon. Mr. Robertson). This interim report, therefore, deals only with the remaining standing committees and joint committees of the Senate, except for the Committee on Divorce. In our view, as no private legislation is to be introduced during this session, it is unnecessary to constitute the Committee on Divorce for the current session.

I understand that the honourable leader (Hon. Mr. Robertson) is going to suggest, when this resolution which stands in his name has been considered this afternoon, and after the Order Paper has been concluded, that the Senate adjourn during pleasure so that the Committee of Selection may meet again and report to the house with respect to the three committees that to now have been excluded. This will depend, of course, upon the action which the Senate chooses to take upon his motion. I hope that we shall be in a position before very long to submit recommendations to the Senate with respect to the membership of these three committees.

There are two other matters which perhaps I ought to mention. In making our recommendations with respect to the various standing committees we have taken into consideration the suggestion contained in the leader's

resolution, that the leader of the government in the Senate and the leader opposite should be *ipso facto* members of all standing committees. We have therefore struck their names from the membership lists of the committees of which they were members last year.

Hon. Mr. King: Are they not members of all committees now?

Hon. Mr. Hugessen: I do not think so.

Hon. Mr. King: That has been the practice.

Hon. Mr. Hugessen: It may have been the practice, but it is certainly not a rule of the Senate. The motion of the honourable leader would make it a rule. The fact is that after having removed the names of the two leaders, and because of deaths and for other reasons, there are quite a number of vacancies in certain of the committees. I am going to take the liberty of reading the names of the members suggested for each standing committee, and indicate the number of vacancies in each, so that any honourable senator who feels that he would like to serve on a committee of which he is not at present a member, may have the opportunity of making representations and having his name added. At the conclusion of the reading of these names, I propose formally to move the adoption of the report, but I would not ask the Senate to adopt the report this afternoon. I would ask one of my honourable friends to move the adjournment of the debate, so that the Senate will have a chance to look over the lists of names between now and the next sitting, so that we can give final consideration to the report then.

The report is as follows:

The Committee of Selection appointed to nominate senators to serve on the several standing committees for the present session, have the honour to report herewith the following list of senators selected by them to serve on certain of the standing committees, namely:

Joint Committee on the Library

The Honourable the Speaker, the Honourable Senators Aseltine, Aylesworth, Sir Allen, Blais, Burke, David, Fallis, Gershaw, Gouin, Lambert, MacLennan, McDonald, Reid, Vien, and Wilson. (15)

There are two vacancies on the Joint Committee on the Library.

Joint Committee on Printing

The Honourable Senators Barbour, Blais, Bouffard, Burke, Comeau, Davies, Dennis, Euler, Fallis, Isnor, Lacasse, Nicol, Stambaugh, Stevenson, Turgeon and Wood. (16)

There are five vacancies on the Joint Committee on Printing.

Joint Committee on the Restaurant

The Honourable the Speaker, the Honourable Senators Beaubien, Doone, Fallis, Haig, Howard and McLean. (7)