

THE SENATE

Tuesday, February 28, 1950

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

Prayers and routine proceedings.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BILL

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

Hon. Mr. Bouffard, Acting Chairman, presented the report of the Standing Committee on Banking and Commerce on Bill 8, an Act to amend the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1940.

He said: Honourable senators, the committee have, in obedience to the order of reference of February 27, 1950, examined the said bill and now beg leave to report the same without any amendment.

THIRD READING

Hon. Mr. Roberison moved the third reading of the bill.

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

PUBLIC LANDS GRANTS BILL

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

Hon. Mr. Bouffard, Acting Chairman, presented the report of the Standing Committee on Banking and Commerce on Bill B, an Act respecting Grants of Public Lands.

He said: Honourable senators, the committee have, in obedience to the order of reference of February 27, 1950, examined the said bill, and now beg leave to report the same without any amendment.

THE ROYAL ASSENT

The Hon. the Speaker informed the Senate that he had received communication from the Assistant Secretary to the Governor General, acquainting him that the Right Honourable Thibaudeau Rinfret, acting as Deputy of His Excellency the Governor General, would proceed to the Senate Chamber this day at 5.45 p.m. for the purpose of giving the Royal Assent to certain bills.

PRIVATE BILL

FIRST READING

Hon. Mr. Bouffard presented Bill E, an Act respecting the Limitholders' Mutual Insurance Company.

The bill was read the first time.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

ADDRESS IN REPLY

The Senate resumed from yesterday 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. Thomas Reid: Honourable senators, in rising to take part in this debate I want to deal first with certain remarks made by the honourable leader of the opposition (Hon. Mr. Haig) who I am sorry to see is not in his place. However, the only difference his absence may make, so far as I am concerned, is that I might say what I have to say with a little more vigour if he were here. During his speech he dealt at some length with communism in this country and the dangers of communism. I say to him and to all honourable senators that many of us in this country are not thinking clearly on this matter, and it is about time that we did. In the early days of the rise of communism the believers in that philosophy were disciples of Karl Marx, and those who worked behind the scenes in Russia for the overthrow of that country believed in the doctrine of Marx, "Unto each man his needs." But what happened in Russia after some of those people came into power? There was a great fight for control, a fight that continued until Soviet Russia had not a communistic government at all, but a Stalinist or Police State government. We in Canada had better get it clear in our minds that in this country there is a difference between the philosophy of those who believe in communism and those who—some of them belonging to the L.P.P.—are taking their orders from Moscow for the overthrow of our Canadian democratic system. I think we might do well to consider this matter more clearly than we have in the past.

I was somewhat amused by the honourable gentleman's references to communistic representatives in the Winnipeg city council and the Manitoba legislature. He said they were out to spend all they could of the taxpayers' money with a view to causing disruption. Well, I have looked over the expenditures of the provincial government and the municipalities of the province from which I come, and I find that they are on one of the biggest spending sprees in the history of the province. The spendings by the provincial government have jumped in the last four years from \$68 million to \$102 million; but no one would accuse that government of being communistic at all. And neither can anyone say that the municipalities have become communistic in thought. What the public of this country need to do is to take a greater interest in