

Haig), but he made a mighty good speech, and the more speeches of that kind we have in this house the better.

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

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

THIRD READING

Hon. Mr. Copp: Honourable senators, with leave of the Senate, I move that the bill be read the third time now.

Hon. Mr. Roebuck: Honourable senators, I am not going to object to the passage of this measure today, because, as was said by the senator from Churchill (Hon. Mr. Crerar), we are required to vote the money in order that His Majesty's business may be carried on. But I do agree with what was said by the senator from Vancouver-South (Hon. Mr. Farris). On a motion for second reading of a supply bill, as I understand the rules, the debate is unrestricted, and therefore the leader of the opposition (Hon. Mr. Haig) was entirely within his rights in roaming over the government's record and the general situation. That is a purely academic point at the moment, for the speech has been delivered.

But the matter is important, because there are on the floor of the house others who might have had something of a general nature to communicate to their fellow members if we had been given fair notice that the debate was coming on this afternoon. It seems to me that all the exigencies of the situation might have been met, and a little more courtesy shown to members of the house in arranging matters. If, for instance, we had been notified this afternoon that the purpose of our re-assembling at 5 o'clock was to pass a supply bill, certain members might have been ready to make an address on some general subject of interest, as is permissible in the circumstances. The leader of the opposition says that the present practice has been going on for fifteen years. That does not justify it.

Hon. Mr. Haig: I did not say it did. I was not trying to justify the practice.

Hon. Mr. Roebuck: I understand that. The fact that the practice has been going on for fifteen years is a very good reason why it should cease. In future when it is necessary to vote supply senators should have an opportunity to take advantage of the rule whereby debate on all kinds of matters is permissible, just as it is when we are debating the motion for an Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. With that admonition for the future to the government benches, I am ready to vote for this measure.

Hon. Mr. Haig: Question.

Hon. Mr. Copp: Honourable senators, the remarks made by my honourable friend from Toronto-Trinity (Hon. Mr. Roebuck) are more or less a reflection upon me for my failure to give the house notice before we adjourned during pleasure that the purpose of our meeting again this afternoon was to consider the interim supply bill. I intended to give that notice, but when His Honour the Speaker rose at the adjournment of the debate on the Address, he had in his hand a paper which I thought was the supply bill from another place, and I intended to make a few remarks after the first reading. Also, when we adjourned during pleasure I took it for granted that all senators knew the purpose of our doing so; otherwise I certainly would have a statement about it. I trust this explanation will be satisfactory to my honourable friend from Toronto-Trinity.

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

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 6 o'clock for the purpose of giving the Royal Assent to certain bills.

The Senate adjourned during pleasure.

THE ROYAL ASSENT

The Honourable Thibaudeau Rinfret, Chief Justice of Canada, acting as Deputy of His Excellency the Governor General, having come and being seated at the foot of the Throne, and the House of Commons being come with their Speaker, the Honourable the Deputy of the Governor General was pleased to give the Royal Assent to the following bills:

An Act to amend the Criminal Code.

An Act for granting to His Majesty certain sums of money for the public service of the financial year ending the 31st March, 1950.

The House of Commons withdrew.

The Honourable the Deputy of the Governor General was pleased to retire.

The sitting of the Senate was resumed.

The Senate adjourned until Tuesday, October 4, at 8 p.m.