

Hon. Mr. Robertson: I may say that with the exception of one committee there is really no urgency. I have followed the practice of the last two years, and the rule that no member be removed from the Committee of Selection who served on it the preceding year has been observed. We have added some new members and have left vacancies for others. This in itself is not an argument for haste, the chief reason for which is that after the committee personnel has been selected it is customary to nominate the various chairmen and, if the nominations are concurred in, to set up the committees. The only committee as to which there is a little urgency—how much, I will leave it to a member of that committee to say—is the Divorce committee, which has to organize and set dates for its hearings in advance so that sufficient notice may be given to witnesses and others who will be appearing before it. The honourable gentleman from Rosetown (Hon. Mr. Aseltine), who has been chairman of the committee for some years, is in a better position to give information about it than I am.

As to the point made by His Honour the Speaker that the motion has already been carried, I may say that I am quite willing to have the motion considered simply as a notice, and to proceed with it after it has been printed in our records. Of course I should not want to do this if, thereby, the Divorce Committee would be handicapped.

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: Honourable senators, I think it is very important that the Divorce Committee should have its organization meeting tomorrow. There is a great deal of work to be done, and we want to get it started as soon as possible.

The Hon. the Acting Speaker: In my opinion this discussion is entirely out of order. The honourable leader of the government (Hon. Mr. Robertson) moved the consideration of the report, and the motion was adopted. He then moved another motion, and it is that motion which is now before the house.

Hon. Mr. Robertson: I had intended to ask the house to adjourn tomorrow until next week, but I am afraid that if we were to adjourn before the Divorce committee held its organization meeting the committee would be placed under a handicap.

The Hon. the Acting Speaker: Order. I insist that the discussion on the motion for consideration of the report is out of order. That motion was carried. If the honourable leader wishes, he can withdraw his motion, but there can be no further discussion of it.

Right Hon. Mr. Mackenzie: Honourable senators, I rose not on a question of order but simply to express concurrence in the views

expressed by the honourable senator from Toronto-Trinity (Hon. Mr. Roebuck). However, if I am going to be met with any suggestion of the iron fist, I will speak on the question of order, even if I have to fight for it alone. I say that this procedure is not proper, and in that regard I agree with the honourable gentleman from Toronto-Trinity. I quite understand the position in relation to the Divorce committee—

The Hon. the Acting Speaker: Order!

Right Hon. Mr. Mackenzie: I am speaking to a question of privilege, sir, on which I am quite in order.

The Hon. the Acting Speaker: I still insist that there cannot be any further discussion on the motion for consideration of the report of the committee of selection.

Right Hon. Mr. Mackenzie: Then, Mr. Speaker, I—

The Hon. the Acting Speaker: I rule that we cannot have any further discussion on that motion. There is another motion before the house.

Right Hon. Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, I rise to a question of privilege, to which any member can speak at any time. It is a privilege affecting the rights of honourable members of this house, and regardless of any point of order I am entitled to speak to a question of privilege.

The Hon. the Acting Speaker: I insist that the right honourable gentleman is out of order in attempting to discuss the motion that has been adopted. If he is not satisfied with that ruling he may appeal to the house.

Right Hon. Mr. Mackenzie: Well, sir, seeing that—

The Hon. the Acting Speaker: Order! I have ruled that you cannot discuss that motion any further.

Right Hon. Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, I can rise to a question of privilege in this house, and I insist on my right to do so.

The Hon. the Acting Speaker: Will the right honourable gentleman please state his question of privilege?

Right Hon. Mr. Mackenzie: My question of privilege is that I had no notice of this list of members of committees, and that the motion was carried without consideration by honourable members of this house. I say that is something which affects the privilege of every single member of the Senate, in that we are entitled to know what business is to come up for our consideration before we are asked to dispose of it. I think that in all fairness the motion should be with-