

BUSINESS OF THE SENATE

HON. MR. ROBERTSON: Honourable senators, before moving the adjournment of the house, I thought I might, for the benefit of honourable senators, make a statement which is more or less what the Prime Minister said in the other house with respect to immediate prospects regarding legislation.

In view of the expiry of the National Emergency Transitional Powers Act on March 31, 1947, parliament will be faced with a very heavy legislative programme during the next few weeks. I am not yet in a position to say how much of the government's legislation will be introduced in this chamber, but I have conveyed to the government the desire, which I think is shared by all senators, that this house be given its full measure of responsibility for the introduction of government bills.

Perhaps I might say a few words with regard to the legislation that will be brought down between now and the end of March. In line with the government's policy of removing controls at the earliest possible moment, all orders-in-council still in force under the authority of the National Emergency Transitional Powers Act will expire on March 31, with the expiry of the act. There will be two main exceptions to this rule: in the case of certain price and commodity controls which cannot safely be removed by the end of March, the government will introduce a bill to provide for continuation for a limited period of time. The second exception concerns a number of orders-in-council which, in the national interest, it is considered desirable to put on a more permanent basis. These all relate to matters within the normal competence of the Parliament of Canada, and which will be covered by about fifteen bills to be introduced in the near future.

The temporary measures falling within the first category of legislation include controls of prices, supplies, and rentals, regulations for the return to Canada of remaining dependents of service personnel, settlement of claims against the Crown arising out of the war, administration of Japanese property in Canada, re-location of persons of Japanese race, old age pensions, and certain compensations to merchant seamen. A certain number of the orders specified as coming under the bill will be the subject of additional specific bills later in the session, including old age pensions, labour relations, and veterans' preference in the civil service.

The permanent measures, which fall into the second group, include bills to amend the Fertilizers Act, the Inspection and Sales Act,

the Feeding Stuffs Act, the Customs Act, the Militia Pension Act, the Militia Act, the Patent Act, the Department of National Defence Act, the Canada Grain Act, the Wheat Board Act, and the Immigration Act, in relation to the return to Canada of Canadian Chinese. Bills dealing with mail contract supplements, trading with the enemy, export and import controls, and agricultural products will also be included.

The Senate adjourned until Tuesday, February 11, at 8 p.m.

THE SENATE

Tuesday, February 11, 1947.

The Senate met at 8 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

CUSTOMS BILL

FIRST READING

A message was received from the House of Commons with Bill 6, an Act to amend the Customs Act.

The bill was read the first time.

The Hon. the SPEAKER: When shall this bill be read the second time?

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: Next sitting.

FEEDING STUFFS BILL

FIRST READING

A message was received from the House of Commons with Bill 7, an Act to amend the Feeding Stuffs Act, 1937.

The bill was read the first time.

The Hon. the SPEAKER: When shall this bill be read the second time?

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: Next sitting.

INSPECTION AND SALE BILL

FIRST READING

A message was received from the House of Commons with Bill 8, an Act to amend the Inspection and Sale Act, 1938.

The bill was read the first time.

The Hon. the SPEAKER: When shall this bill be read the second time?

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: Next sitting.