

Session of the Twenty-Second Parliament of Canada with the following speech:

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

You have been summoned at this time because of the serious international situation arising out of hostilities in the Middle East and the events in Hungary.

Members of the House of Commons:

You will be asked to provide expressly that the provision for defence expenditures in the Appropriation Act No. 6, 1956, be used for the purposes of Canada's participation in the United Nations Emergency Force for the Middle East in fulfilment of our country's obligations to the United Nations Organization under the Charter. You will also be requested to authorize the provision of relief for the victims of the recent tragic events in Hungary.

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

May Divine Providence continue to protect this nation, and to guide the Parliament of Canada in all its deliberations.

The House of Commons withdrew.

His Excellency the Governor General was pleased to retire.

The sitting of the Senate was resumed.

RAILWAYS BILL

FIRST READING

Hon. Mr. Hugessen (for Hon. Mr. Macdonald), presented Bill A, an Act relating to railways.

The bill was read the first time.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

CONSIDERATION TOMORROW

On motion of Hon. Mr. Hugessen (for Hon. Mr. Macdonald), it was ordered that the speech of His Excellency the Governor General be taken into consideration tomorrow.

HUNGARY

FIGHT FOR FREEDOM

Hon. Mr. Hugessen: Honourable senators, I am going to ask honourable members to do something, the like of which has not, I think, been done before in the history of this house. The occasion for it arises out of the reference made in the Speech from the Throne to that unhappy country, Hungary. I am going to ask every member of the Senate to rise and stand with me for a minute of silent prayer for those brave Hungarians who have died in the last few weeks fighting for the freedom of their country against a foul and brutal tyranny.

Honourable senators thereupon stood in silence.

COMMITTEE ON ORDERS AND PRIVILEGES

APPOINTMENT

Hon. Mr. Hugessen (for Hon. Mr. Macdonald), with leave of the Senate, moved:

That all the senators present during this session be appointed a Committee to consider the Orders and Customs of the Senate and Privileges of Parliament, and that the said committee have leave to meet in the Senate chamber when and as often as they please.

The motion was agreed to.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION

APPOINTMENT

Hon. Mr. Hugessen (for Hon. Mr. Macdonald) moved, with leave of the Senate:

That a Special Committee of the Senate be appointed to examine into any legislation or other matter which may be referred to it, and that the said committee be composed of:

The Honourable Senators Asetline, Baird, Beaubien, Bouffard, Burchill, Campbell, Connolly (Ottawa West), Crerar, Croll, Davies, Dessureaut, Euler, Farris, Gershaw, Golding, Gouin, Haig, Hardy, Hawkins, Hayden, Horner, Howard, Howden, Hugessen, Isnor, Kinley, Lambert, Leonard, Macdonald, MacKinnon, McDonald, McGuire, McIntyre, McKeen, McLean, Paterson, Pouliot, Power, Pratt, Quinn, Reid, Roebuck, Taylor, Turgeon, Vaillancourt, Vien, Wilson, Wood and Woodrow.

He said: Honourable senators this resolution needs a word of explanation. It arises out of the special conditions under which this special session of Parliament has been summoned. A similar motion was moved and adopted during the special session of 1950.

As honourable senators know, in a normal session one of the first orders of business is the appointment of a Committee of Selection, which nominates the standing committees of this house, of which there are nineteen. Under the special circumstances of this session it is not likely that the standing committees, or at least the majority of them, will need to be organized. On the other hand, it may be that within the first day or so of the session the Senate will require to have in action a committee to deal with and consider special legislation. In accordance with the procedure of the 1950 special session, this motion is submitted for the consideration of the house.

The membership set out in the motion which I have just read is the same as that of the Standing Committee on Banking and Commerce at the last session, except for the names of Honourable Senators Hackett and Pirie, who have passed away. In the naming of the senators for this special committee the precedent that was adopted at the special session of 1950 has been followed.

The motion was agreed to.