

THE SENATE

Tuesday, February 6, 1951

The Senate met at 3 p.m., the Acting Speaker (Hon. J. H. King) in the Chair.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

PRIVATE BILL

FIRST READING

Hon. Mr. Haig presented Bill B, an Act to incorporate the Hutterian Brethren Church.

The bill was read the first time.

PRIVATE BILL

FIRST READING

Hon. Mr. Lambert presented Bill C, an Act to amend the United Church of Canada Act.

The bill was read the first time.

PRIVATE BILL

FIRST READING

Hon. Mr. Aseltine presented Bill D, an Act to incorporate the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada.

The bill was read the first time.

PRIVATE BILL

FIRST READING

Hon. Mr. Turgeon (for Hon. Mr. King), presented Bill E, an Act respecting the British Columbia Telephone Company.

The bill was read the first time.

PRIVATE BILL

FIRST READING

Hon. Mr. Bouffard presented Bill F, an Act to incorporate Trans-Canada Pipe Lines Limited.

The bill was read the first time.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

ADDRESS IN REPLY

The Senate resumed from yesterday consideration of His Excellency the Governor General's speech at the opening of the session, and the motion of Hon. Mr. Stambaugh for an Address in reply thereto.

Hon. J. A. McDonald: Honourable senators, in the first place I would like to join with the two leaders in their complimentary remarks about the speeches made by the mover and the seconder of the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. We enjoyed a treat last evening: we expected good speeches from

the honourable leaders, but I believe they excelled themselves. There was much in their speeches to invite our best thought, and I only wish that I could keep the debate on as high a plane.

Honourable senators, with your indulgence, before I proceed with the two major parts of my subject today, I am going to refer to the motion of which notice was recently given by our honourable leader. If this motion is favourably considered by honourable senators, it will give us an opportunity to inquire into and report upon whatever action in our opinion may be necessary or expedient to enable the Senate to make its maximum contribution to the welfare of the Canadian people. As one humble member, I shall be pleased to support this motion, hoping that a thorough study of the organization and responsibilities of the Senate will result in recommendations which, if accepted, will have the effect of making the Senate even more useful than it has been.

Among the questions which I think should be studied are these. First, could changes be made in the method of appointing at least a portion of the senators which would make this a more democratic body? Second, should there be any age limit for senators? It is necessary, of course, if the Senate is to render the greatest possible service, that it have the most generous co-operation of the governments. It is encouraging to know that we have this co-operation now because, as the government leader said a few days ago, at the last session of parliament, all bills not dealing with money matters, with one exception, were introduced in this house. Our nation has undergone great changes since confederation, and it may be that a study will show how we can better accomplish those things for which the Senate was established, including the protection of minorities. If there are changes that can be made to enlarge the sphere of usefulness of the Senate, I believe that they should be suggested by the Senate itself, and with this I should think the government would agree.

The United Nations Assembly and its important committees have done good work and have made much progress during 1950. An important step was taken by the Assembly when the representatives of the nations of free peoples voted to deal in the Assembly with further possible aggression by the communists, should desired action be vetoed in the Security Council.

We would be remiss if we did not at this time express the appreciation which we feel for the valiant and the self-sacrificing services of the United Nations soldiers in Korea. I am certain that I am expressing the sentiments of all honourable senators when I say