

Hon. Mr. Roebuck: I am not very clear about the purport of the motion. So far as organizing the committee and giving it the necessary powers is concerned, that is good. If this or whatever other resolution may be required is passed today we can meet tomorrow and organize for the present session. That is necessary because, as the honourable the Government Leader has said, there is a great deal to be done in bringing these cases to trial. Due notice must be given to the parties involved. I am not passing on the phraseology of the motion, but the general purpose of it is right.

The motion was agreed to.

STANDING COMMITTEES

REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF SELECTION

Hon. Mr. Aseltine presented the second report of the Committee of Selection.

He said: Honourable senators, the Committee of Selection appointed to nominate senators to standing committees for the present session, make their second report.

The Clerk Assistant (reading):

The Committee of selection appointed to nominate senators to serve on the several standing committees for the present session, make their second report, as follows:

Hon. Senators: Dispense.

For text of report see Appendix to today's Hansard, pp. 11-12.

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: I may say that the former members of each committee remain as they were, and there are certain vacancies left to be filled at a later date, when we have a full house. I move that the report be taken into consideration at the next sitting.

Hon. Mr. Haig: Honourable senators, if an honourable senator decides that he would prefer to be on some committee other than the one to which he or she is nominated, it is the intention of the Selection Committee, as they agreed this morning, that an attempt will be made to switch members around so as to put them on committees on which they want to work. This cannot be done, of course, if a committee is already filled and there are no resignations, but on a number of committees there are one or more vacancies and readjustments may be made. The arrangement worked very well last session, and we hope to continue the same policy.

The motion was agreed to.

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BUSINESS OF THE SENATE

Hon. Mr. Haig: Honourable senators, I move that when this house rises today it stand adjourned until Tuesday next at 8 o'clock in the evening.

Before the question is put may I explain why I am asking for this adjournment? In the first place, I have been informed by members of the Senate staff that it will take until Thursday or Friday of this week to restore the Senate chamber to its normal state. In the second place, many honourable senators had anticipated that we would adjourn today until next Tuesday night.

I have not consulted with anyone on the matter but I want to say quite candidly that I am hopeful the Senate will be able to sit four days a week during this session. The question arises as to whether we should sit Monday nights or Friday afternoons. This is something on which I want guidance from both sides of the house, for it is of interest to all of us. I will not try to reach any decision now but I would ask honourable members to think this over and give me their ideas on it by next Tuesday night. I freely admit that if I lived in Montreal or Toronto I would be hopeful the Senate could keep up to its work by sitting three days a week. However, I do not think a three-day week would give us enough time during this session. Legislation will go forward fast enough in the other house and we shall be required to sit four days a week to keep up. I would not like to delay the other house for any reason, and I want the Senate to be right up to date with its work. Two or three pieces of legislation forecast in the Speech from the Throne will require the best consideration of honourable members, both in this house and in committee. Our experience in life has equipped us to deal capably with these problems, and we owe it to the people of Canada to make this contribution to the affairs of the country.

Hon. Mr. Macdonald: Honourable senators, with regard to the number of sitting days in the Senate, it has been my experience that honourable members have always been prepared to sit whenever there has been business for them to consider, and I have never heard them object when they have been required to be here even five days a week. I can assure the honourable Leader of the Government (Hon. Mr. Haig) that the members on this side of the house will be ready to sit even on Saturdays in order to dispose of the business of the Senate.

The motion was agreed to.