

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, May 2, 1950

The house met at three o'clock.

BANKING AND COMMERCE

FIRST AND SECOND REPORTS OF STANDING
COMMITTEE—CONCURRENCE IN
FIRST REPORT

Mr. Hughes Cleaver (Halton) presented the first and second reports of the standing committee on banking and commerce, and moved that the first report be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

VACANCY

HALIFAX—APPOINTMENT OF GORDON B.
ISNOR TO THE SENATE

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the house that I have received a communication from two members notifying me that the following vacancy has occurred in the representation, viz.:

Of Gordon B. Isnor, Esquire, a member for the electoral district of Halifax, consequent upon his being summoned to the Senate.

I have accordingly issued my warrant to the chief electoral officer to make out a new writ of election for the said electoral district.

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): I should like to say to you, sir, and through you to hon. members of the house, that following the issue of your warrant to the chief electoral officer, he has been directed to issue writs for by-elections to be held in the following electoral districts: Annapolis-Kings, Cartier, and Halifax, on June 19 next.

Mr. Daniel McIvor (Fort William): Mr. Speaker, I congratulate my deskmate, but I am sorry for myself. I am sorry to lose such a deskmate. If any other hon. member had sat in my place during this session and the last, he would have appreciated the many fine characteristics of the member who has been removed heavenwards. His outstanding characteristics are Christian courtesy and helpfulness. Fifteen years ago we advised the prime minister to send young men into the Senate. This advice was heeded, and now they are sending wise men from the east. We congratulate the Senate.

Mr. Gordon Graydon (Peel): Mr. Speaker, now that a close personal parliamentary friend of mine, the former member for Halifax, has just completed another stage in what the member for Fort William (Mr. McIvor) referred to as the pilgrim's progress, I could not permit this opportunity to pass without saying a few words. Having come into the House of Commons at the same time as the former member for Halifax who has now been appointed to the Senate, I suppose it is a favourable commentary upon the House of Commons itself to say that political lines interfere but little in the friendships or the good relations that people have with each other in this parliament. I always liked Gordon Isnor. Perhaps that is putting the matter in as plain and simple terms as one can put it. I liked him because he was honest and straightforward. More than that, he was a sound parliamentarian, even though sometimes we did not see soundness in exactly the same way. In addition, he came into this House of Commons as one who had had a wide and successful business career, and in that career, as we all know, he has since had continued success.

I want to say through you, Mr. Speaker, to the new senator who cannot take his accustomed seat among us today, that from this side of the house come the best wishes that a member can have from political opponents or friends on an occasion such as this. It is true that his appointment to the Senate will throw that body somewhat further out of balance, having regard to political affiliations; on the other hand, while I know that the Prime Minister is anxious to see that the Senate does not become too far out of balance, may I say to him that this by-election may perhaps see the House of Commons put in a little better balance.

When the new senator takes his seat I hope he will adopt the same judicial and non-partisan air that some senators have been known to adopt in the past. If he does that and keeps out of party politics, it will help us to win Halifax in the next by-election.

Mr. W. F. Carroll (Inverness-Richmond): As the junior member from the province of Nova Scotia, I want to say how pleased I am at the elevation to the Senate of a colleague who had been one of the members for Halifax. What is the loss to the House of Commons will be the other place's gain. I know of no