

here but in the United Kingdom, the United States, and other countries. The government cannot be criticized for that.

Hon. Mrs. Fallis: Will the honourable gentleman allow me to interrupt? The criticism is not as to the length of time it takes to train men, but as to the government's slowness in starting the training.

Hon. Mr. Haig: That is the point.

Hon. Mr. Roebuck: But we have been training forces for a long time.

Hon. Mrs. Fallis: I mean, for this special purpose.

Hon. Mr. Roebuck: There has been some talk of losing three weeks time in calling parliament together. True, we might have been called a little earlier, but I do not see where any time was lost as far as our military preparations were concerned. The cabinet was carrying on, and it did everything that parliament would have done had it been in session. Therefore, I do not see where the criticism lies.

Hon. Mr. Horner: I would point out that it was three weeks after a request was made for troops that any move was made to recruit a force in Canada.

The motion was agreed to, and the bill was read the second time.

THIRD READING

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, when shall the bill be read the third time?

Hon. Mr. Robertson: Honourable senators, I had expected that the debate on second reading would not have lasted as long as it has, and that the bill would have gone to committee earlier. I am advised that when the bill has been passed that Royal Assent may take place at either 12.45 or at 6 o'clock this evening. As I gave an undertaking that the bill would be referred to committee, I am entirely in the hands of the house as to the course we should follow.

Hon. Mr. Haig: May I make a suggestion to the honourable leader of the government? We have been told that the Minister of National Defence and the Minister of External

Affairs—I am more interested in his information—will be available to answer our questions. If the leader of the government will assure us that these men will appear before the committee later, I see no objection to the house giving third reading to the bill now.

Some Hon. Senators: Carried!

Hon. Mr. Robertson: I am quite happy to give that undertaking, but I must point out that it may not be possible for the Minister of National Defence to attend the committee meeting. Under those circumstances he would be represented by some one from his department. The Minister of External Affairs will be available, as the measure has to do with external affairs.

Honourable senators, I move that the bill be now read a third time.

The motion was agreed to, and the bill was read a third time, and passed.

THE ROYAL ASSENT

The Hon. the Speaker informed the Senate that he had received a communication from the Assistant Secretary to the Governor General, acquainting him that the Honourable Robert Taschereau, acting as Deputy of the Governor General, would proceed to the Senate Chamber this day at 12.45 p.m., for the purpose of giving Royal Assent to a bill.

The Senate adjourned during pleasure.

The Honourable Robert Taschereau, the Deputy of the Governor General, having come and being seated at the foot of the Throne, and the House of Commons having been summoned and being come with their Speaker, the Honourable the Deputy of the Governor General was pleased to give the Royal Assent to the following bill:

An Act respecting the Canadian Forces.

The House of Commons withdrew.

The Honourable the Deputy of the Governor General was pleased to retire.

The sitting of the Senate was resumed.

The Senate adjourned until Monday, September 11, at 3 p.m.