

parliament receive Royal Assent, the comparison of dissolutions of marriage granted by parliament in the last ten years is as follows:—

1940	62
1941	49
1942	73
1943	92
1944	111
1945	179
1946	290
1947	348
1947-48	292
1949	184

Hon. Wishart McL. Robertson: Honourable senators, in my capacity as leader of the government in the Senate, I should like to say a word in appreciation of the untiring and excellent work done by the Divorce Committee. I have paid tribute to the committee's work before, and I intend to do so on occasion as long as the committee continues to render such good service as it has rendered in the past. I wish my words of appreciation to extend to all members of the committee, but in frankness I am bound to say that they are particularly directed to the Chairman (Hon. Mr. Aseltine) and the Deputy Chairman (Hon. Mr. Haig), who carry on in these onerous duties in addition to fulfilling their responsibilities as, respectively, Deputy Leader of the Opposition and Leader of the Opposition in this house. I feel sure that all members of the Senate join with me in expressing to all members of the Divorce Committee sincere appreciation of the time and effort that they devote to their exacting duties on that committee.

BUSINESS OF THE SENATE

Hon. Mr. Robertson: Honourable senators, I should like to make a brief statement as to what I purpose asking the Senate to consider this afternoon. I shall ask that the motions appearing on the Order Paper as items No. 1 and No. 2 be allowed to stand, as it is not intended to proceed with these at the present session. I shall, however, move the third motion, for suspension of certain rules, and also the fourth motion, for approval of the North Atlantic Treaty. At first I had thought it would be well not to move the fourth motion until the treaty came up for consideration in another place, but there is some uncertainty as to just when this will be, so I shall ask the Senate to adopt the motion this afternoon. I shall suggest that motion No. 5, for approval of the International Wheat Agreement, be allowed to stand temporarily while we pass on to the Orders of the Day.

The first Order is for second reading of the Criminal Code Bill, and, as previously intimated, I shall ask that this Order stand. The only other Order is for second reading of the Agricultural Products Marketing Bill,

and after we have dealt with this I shall ask the house to revert to the motion for approval of the International Wheat Agreement. I should like to make a brief explanation of the agreement today, in order that any senator who may require more information than I am capable of giving at the moment will have an opportunity of asking for it. I must frankly admit that my knowledge of the subject is very limited, and if questions are asked about it this afternoon I shall endeavour to obtain the required information for tomorrow. I take it that some honourable senators may wish to discuss the agreement, and there will be no objection on my part to an adjournment of the debate, if that is desired.

SUSPENSION OF RULES

MOTION

Hon. Mr. Robertson moved:

That for the balance of the present session Rules 23, 24, 63, 119 and 129 be suspended in so far as they relate to public and private bills.

He said: Honourable senators are aware that it has long been customary to move such a motion as this towards the end of the session. I am frank to say that every time I have had occasion to do so I have felt increasing diffidence, because honourable members have invariably accorded me the utmost courtesy and consideration whenever it has been necessary to ask that any measure be proceeded with more expeditiously than provided for by the rules. Adoption of the motion will not place any additional power in my hands, for the decision as to whether any measure shall be passed always rests with a majority of honourable members.

The motion was agreed to.

THE NORTH ATLANTIC PACT

MOTION OF APPROVAL

Hon. Wishart McL. Robertson moved:

That it is expedient that the Houses of Parliament do approve the North Atlantic Treaty signed at Washington on April 4, 1949, and that this house do approve the same.

He said: Honourable senators will recall that less than a month ago I moved, and the Senate adopted, a resolution of approval of a draft document known as the North Atlantic Treaty. The object of that resolution was to have the Houses of Parliament authorize a representative of the government to proceed to Washington and sign the treaty with the other participating countries, on the understanding that in due course the treaty would be referred to each signatory country for ratification according to its constitutional processes. I have obtained a few copies of the signed document in order that they may