

DIVORCE

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ADOPTED

Leave having been given to proceed with Order No. 2:

The Senate proceeded to consideration of the first report of the Standing Committee on Divorce.

Hon. Arthur W. Roebuck: Honourable senators, I understand my granddaughters have been to the five and ten cent store in preparation for tomorrow, and so I am going to have to leave fairly early for an important engagement.

I move, seconded by Senator Hollett, that this report be adopted.

Report adopted.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

MOTION FOR ADDRESS IN REPLY—DEBATE CONTINUED

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. Cook, seconded by Hon. Mr. Denis, for an address in reply thereto.

Hon. Harry A. Willis: Honourable senators, if I may I would ask permission to take some parts of my speech out of context. The 4.40 train for Toronto senators leaves at 4.40, and since I have a special reference to make to at least two of them I should like to do so now. I may say that the Government Leader of the Senate (Hon. Mr. Connolly, Ottawa West) and the Opposition Leader (Hon. Mr. Brooks) have stolen some of my thunder, because I wanted to speak about Senator Roebuck first.

Honourable senators, Arthur Wentworth Roebuck was born on February 28, 1878, and I have figured out that if he had been born on February 29 of that year he would have his nineteenth birthday tomorrow, and I must say that he looks 19 years old.

My first encounter with Senator Roebuck was when I was a student of law at City Hall in Toronto, and he was defending an eminent physician on a charge of abortion. I had never heard such an eloquent and learned plea as he made at that time. I was impressed by him then as I always have been since, although we differed in politics. He was born in Hamilton and lived for a time in Arthur, which is not far from my own home in Belfountain. I followed his career with the utmost interest and, quite apart from politics or anything else, he was the

best attorney-general Ontario ever had. Furthermore he was a man of principle; he resigned from a Liberal cabinet in Ontario because of principle, and I give him credit for that.

Senator Roebuck then went on to fight in a federal riding for the Liberal party, and eventually he was called to this house where, as Chairman of the Divorce Committee, he has done tremendous service to Canada, and I, being also from the Toronto area, want to pay tribute to him today. I am glad to hear that his grandchildren are going to meet him tonight for his birthday tomorrow.

The other senator I want to mention is Senator William Taylor. In looking through the Speech from the Throne I could not find anything about tobacco because having regard to our present Minister of National Health and Welfare and her ideas about smoking, I really feel sorry for him. I note that Senator Taylor is the senator from Norfolk County. In the next redistribution there is not going to be a Norfolk, because that is the tobacco-growing area of Ontario, and if the present Minister of National Health and Welfare has her way that industry will disappear. Senator Taylor, you will have to adopt a new constituency. I feel sorry for you, but, on the other hand, I feel more sorry for the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

Now, honourable senators, I come to my original text. I want to pay tribute to you, Mr. Speaker, and say how glad and how fortunate we are to be back under your guidance and direction in this new session. You and your charming wife, as exemplified last evening, are a charming host and hostess of the Senate. We pay tribute to you, sir.

My next reference is to the honourable senator from Hastings-Frontenac, the Honourable George S. White, P.C. I was very pleased to read during the recess that the Prime Minister had named Senator White a member of Her Majesty's Privy Council. During the speeches of yesterday I wondered what was going to be said about Senator White's counselling Her Majesty. I knew, of course, that he was not an obstetrician. I am glad he is a member of the Privy Council. When I was introduced to the Senate almost two years ago no one could have been more generous and kinder to me than the then Speaker, the honourable Senator White. I pay tribute to him and his charming wife for the duties they performed for so short a time. However, honourable senators, he may be back there again in the not-too-distant future. Eight votes is all that is needed. It is encouraging.