

agree, those measures and a similar one passed in the United States were very injurious to the cause of temperance in both countries.

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

THIRD READING

Hon. Mr. KING moved the third reading of the Bill.

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

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS BILL

SECOND READING

Hon. J. H. KING moved the second reading of Bill 120, an Act to amend the Department of External Affairs Act.

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

THIRD READING

Hon. Mr. KING moved the third reading of the Bill.

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

TAFFERT DIVORCE BILL

SECOND READING

Hon. W. M. ASELTINE moved the second reading of Bill E4, an Act for the relief of William Taffert.

Hon. JAMES MURDOCK: Honourable senators, I should much prefer to sit in my seat quietly and permit this motion for second reading to go through, as is usual with divorce bills. But the other day, in filing a minority report on this case, I said:

In my judgment, this case appears to be a simple "frame-up" against this woman by the petitioner.

Still holding that firm conviction, I should regard myself as disloyal to decent women if I did not by every means at my disposal oppose this Bill. I realize that there is a strong majority against me. Three distinguished legal gentlemen, to say nothing of one other honourable member of the committee, hold views different from mine with respect to this case. But I have always had in the past and still have some firm convictions, and, I hope, some knowledge of human nature and some ability to judge when the truth emanates from the mouths of either men or women.

I intend to go into this matter at considerable length to-night. I hope honourable senators will have patience with me. My legal

friends on the Divorce Committee base their judgment largely on the fact that two detectives, ten months and ten days after the alleged occurrence of May 9, 1941, identified the respondent, the woman who was before the committee. I am here to say to-night that it is a little more than four months since this case was heard, and I doubt very much if I or any member of the committee could identify that woman if we saw her walking down the street—unless, of course, she happened to have on a red hat. So what is there to this identification before the committee? All there is to it is that every one present at the committee knew the petitioner's wife, the respondent, was present; so it was very easy to identify her there. What were the chances for identification by the two detectives on May 9, 1941? There was far less chance of determining what the woman looked like then than there was in our committee room.

I am going to place on record right here and now part of the cross-examination of the petitioner. I shall not take any more time than I think is absolutely necessary to bring before honourable senators what I regard as important information in connection with this case. The cross-examination of the petitioner by Mr. Rudner, the lawyer for the respondent, begins at page 15 of the committee's printed report.

(Hon. Mr. MURDOCK then read from the printed report of the evidence taken before the Committee on Divorce.)

Hon. Mr. MURDOCK: Mr. Speaker, I do not think there is a quorum in the House.

The Hon. the SPEAKER: I will ask the Clerk to count the members to see whether a quorum is present.

The CLERK: There are fifteen senators present, Mr. Speaker.

The Hon. the SPEAKER: The point is not well taken.

Hon. Mr. MURDOCK: I beg Your Honour's pardon. One gentleman has just come in.

Hon. Mr. ASELTINE: Can the honourable senator from Parkdale tell me what is his object in reading all these questions and answers? They surely do not go to prove that the matrimonial offence charged was not committed.

Hon. Mr. MURDOCK: I will give you all of the wife's and the daughter's evidence before I get through. (Senator Murdock continued his reading of the evidence.)