

THE SENATE

Wednesday, June 30, 1948.

The Senate met at 11 a.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

BUSINESS OF THE SENATE

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: Honourable senators, there seems to be a reasonable measure of agreement in the opinion that prorogation will take place today, but there is no prospect of it within the next few hours. I would therefore move that the Senate adjourn during pleasure, to reassemble at the call of the bell, at approximately 3 o'clock, when I hope to be able to make a more definite announcement.

The motion was agreed to.

The Senate adjourned during pleasure.

The sitting was resumed.

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: Honourable senators, opinions still vary with respect to the hour of prorogation. The optimists hold that parliament will conclude its business by six o'clock; but the pessimists are not so certain of it. In view of the possibility of the optimists being correct, I would move that the house adjourn during pleasure, to resume at the call of the bell, at 5 o'clock.

The motion was agreed to.

The Senate adjourned during pleasure.

The sitting was resumed.

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: Honourable senators, under the most favourable circumstances the role of a prophet is a most precarious one, and it is no less so under the peculiar circumstances of the moment. After consulting the crystal-gazers, I have reason to believe that no useful purpose would be served by this house sitting again before 7.45 this evening. Consequently, I move that the Senate do now adjourn during pleasure, to reassemble at the call of the bell, at approximately 7.45 p.m. I hope that in the meantime the winds that blow will be favourable.

The motion was agreed to.

The Senate adjourned during pleasure.

The sitting was resumed.

PROROGATION OF PARLIAMENT

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 Right Honourable Thibaudeau Rinfret, acting as Deputy of His Excellency the Governor General, would proceed to the Senate chamber this day at 9.30 p.m. for the purpose of proroguing the present session of parliament.

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: Honourable senators, in the circumstances I would move that the Senate adjourn during pleasure, to reassemble at the call of the bell. The bell will be rung at approximately 9.20.

The motion was agreed to.

The Senate adjourned during pleasure.

The sitting was resumed.

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: Honourable senators, I have to report that the expectations of the optimists have not been fulfilled, and we have no alternative but to again adjourn during pleasure. I therefore move that the house do now adjourn, to reassemble at the call of the bell.

The motion was agreed to.

The Senate adjourned during pleasure.

The sitting was resumed.

APPROPRIATION BILL NO. 4

FIRST READING

A message was received from the House of Commons with Bill 399, an Act for granting to His Majesty certain sums of money for the public service of the financial year ending the 31st of March, 1949.

The bill was read the first time.

SECOND READING

Hon. WISHART McL. ROBERTSON moved the second reading of the bill.

He said: Honourable senators, I have just a word of explanation for the record. This bill comprises, of course, the total of the original estimates, plus the supplementary estimates and a second supplementary estimate having to do with appropriations for flood relief and the rebuilding of dikes in British Columbia.

I do not need to remind honourable senators that the passing of this bill at this time is largely a formality, the details having been for