

out. However, the boy came and made an adjustment, and when the volume was turned down I could still hear quite clearly.

**The Hon. the Speaker:** That was my impression.

**Hon. Mr. Paterson:** I am sorry if I disturbed anyone.

**The Hon. the Speaker:** You were not the only offender yesterday.

## DIVORCE

### MEETING OF COMMITTEE

**Hon. Arthur W. Roebuck:** Honourable senators, I have just been served with a notice that the Senate Standing Committee on Divorce will meet on Monday next, January 29, at 10.15 a.m., and the honourable Leader of the Government (Hon. Mr. Aseltine) has moved the adjournment of the Senate until Tuesday evening.

**Hon. Mr. Aseltine:** Tuesday afternoon.

**Hon. Mr. Roebuck:** Tuesday afternoon. That motion does not, of course, mean that the divorce committee will not meet on Monday next. Let me, therefore, call to the attention of the members of the divorce committee, and to the house, that the members of the divorce committee are not released from the meeting on Monday. We on the divorce committee usually serve two days a week more than those senators who are not on that committee.

## 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. Méthot, seconded by Hon. Mr. Hollett, for an address in reply thereto.

**Hon. W. Ross Macdonald:** Honourable senators, when Parliament prorogued on September 29 last, we little thought that we would not reassemble until January 18. The last session of Parliament was one of the longest, if not the longest, in our history, and without doubt the recess we enjoyed was one of the longest in recent years. However, I am sure that the members of both houses would have benefited much more from this interval if they had had some assurance that Parliament was not going to reassemble in the fall. On the contrary, the members of both houses expected to be recalled; in fact, some members had moved their families to Ottawa or had stayed here in anticipation of a fall session. All this needless uncertainty could have been avoided if the Prime Minister had not waited until almost the middle of

December to inform us that Parliament was not going to reassemble until January 18. Had he so informed us, he would have rendered a service not only to the country but also to the members who have been kept in a state of uncertainty.

For some reason or other the Prime Minister seems to think it is in the country's interest to keep it in a continuous state of uncertainty, to keep the country in an atmosphere of mystery. I am not going into detail about the aura of mystery and about the great events that were to take place at the December 8 meeting in the city of Quebec where, during the Christmas and New Year's holiday season, he summoned the Cabinet from their homes all across Canada and called the newspapermen from their family gatherings—

**Hon. Mr. Brunt:** He called?

**Hon. Mr. Macdonald (Brantford):** Well, they were notified about it and I think he would have been disappointed if they had not gone—to hear what was to be one of the most important domestic political announcements since this Government took office—it was to be a dramatic and historic event. But, honourable senators, it made little history and whatever drama there was to it took place behind the scenes. One thing, however, did come out of that meeting, and for all the members of the Senate, I am sure, it overshadowed any let-down we had after expecting a major shift in portfolios.

The event to which I refer is the summoning of our distinguished and well-beloved Leader of the Government (Hon. Mr. Aseltine) to Her Majesty's Privy Council. For four years Senator Aseltine had carried on the arduous duties of his very responsible office in a manner which could not have been otherwise than pleasing to the Government and certainly in a manner which has brought credit not only to himself but also to this honourable chamber. I cannot say how happy I am to congratulate him upon his advancement and I know that all members of the Senate share with me this feeling of joy.

Yesterday we listened to two very interesting speeches by the mover and seconder of the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. I am sure we all agree that they were of the high standard which has been established in this chamber over the years.

*(Translation):*

The honourable senator from Shawinigan (Hon. Mr. Méthot), with his usual eloquence, pointed out several accomplishments of the present administration, and even though we may disagree in part with what he said, we do it somewhat reluctantly because of the kind words he had for us.