

## THE SENATE

Thursday, August 9, 1956

The Senate met at 3 p.m., Hon. Thomas Vien, P.C., Acting Speaker, in the Chair.

Prayers.

Routine proceedings.

### SMALL LOANS BILL

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

**Hon. Salter A. Hayden**, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Banking and Commerce, presented the report of the committee on Bill 51.

The report was read by the Clerk Assistant as follows:

The Standing Committee on Banking and Commerce, to whom was referred the Bill (51) intitled "An Act to amend the Small Loans Act", have in obedience to the order of reference of August 8, 1956, examined the said bill, and now report the same without any amendment.

The report was adopted.

### THIRD READING

**The Hon. the Acting Speaker:** Honourable senators, when shall this bill be read the third time?

**Hon. Mr. Hawkins:** I move the third reading now.

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

### THE ACTING SPEAKER

TRIBUTES TO HON. THOMAS VIEN, P.C.

**Hon. W. Ross Macdonald:** Honourable senators, my information is that His Honour the Speaker will return to the chamber tomorrow and preside over our sittings to the end of this session. At this time I should like to express to the honourable senator from De Lorimier (Hon. Mr. Vien) our appreciation of the very gracious and capable manner in which he has presided over our proceedings during the Speaker's absence. We are fortunate to have a man of his capacity and experience in our midst. I am sure I speak on behalf of all members when I say that we very much appreciate his service to us during the last few days.

**Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear.

**Hon. John. T. Haig:** Honourable senators, I wish to join the Leader of the Government in expressing to the Acting Speaker our appreciation of the way in which he has presided over the deliberations of this house

during the last few days. It is very gratifying to know that there is someone among our members who understands the rules of procedure so well does the honourable senator from De Lorimier.

**Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear.

**The Hon. the Acting Speaker:** Honourable senators, I am extremely grateful to the honourable Leader of the Government and the honourable Leader of the Opposition for their very generous expression of appreciation of my humble effort, and to you all for your very gracious applause and for the honour that you conferred upon me in calling upon me to discharge the functions of this very high office. I wish to extend my sincere thanks to all honourable senators.

### INTERNATIONAL WHEAT AGREEMENT

RESOLUTION OF APPROVAL

**Hon. James A. MacKinnon** moved:

That it is expedient that the houses of Parliament do approve the International Wheat Agreement opened for signature at Washington on May 14, 1956, and that this house do approve the same.

He said: Honourable senators, when the honourable Leader of the Government in the Senate (Hon. Mr. Macdonald) asked me to speak to this resolution, I thought he did so because he knew that for eight or nine years, as Minister of Trade and Commerce, I had to do with this problem, among others. I had wished to take this opportunity to refer briefly, first, to the production of wheat, which comes under the authority of the Department of Agriculture, and then to the work of the various committees in the Department of Trade and Commerce which have to do with the wheat problem. I accepted it as a compliment and a privilege to be called upon by the honourable leader to speak on this subject. I have always appreciated my official duties in this connection. During my term of office I used to fear question time in the House of Commons, because invariably there was a barrage of questions from the Opposition groups relative to difficulties connected with the handling of wheat, and I had supposed that when I left the other place to come to join this venerable and august body my days of worrying over the wheat question were pretty well over.

Let me first explain how the Department of Trade and Commerce comes into the wheat question. The department has, of course, no direct responsibility in connection with the production of grain; that pertains to the Department of Agriculture. The Department of Trade and Commerce comes into the picture when the wheat raised in the grain producing areas of Canada is delivered to