

**Hon. Mr. Macdonald** moved, with leave, that the report be adopted.

The motion was agreed to.

### 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. Bois, seconded by Hon. Mr. Smith (Kamloops), for an Address in reply thereto.

**Hon. John T. Haig:** Honourable members,—

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

**Hon. Mr. Haig:**—It occurred to me, while listening to the very fine addresses of the mover (Hon. Mr. Bois) and the seconder (Hon. Mr. Smith) of the motion for the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne that I have never had the pleasure of either moving or seconding such a motion. I was delighted with both speeches, and although I could not follow the language of the mover, as I would like to have done, I could certainly follow that of the seconder. When he stated that he had been a member of a provincial Legislature, I had a friendly feeling toward him, for I am one of those who do not amount to much in this house because of having come from merely a Legislature. Members of the House of Commons are prone to look down on us fellows. I am glad, therefore, to see another recruit to our ranks. We welcome him most heartily, not only for himself, as a person, but because he has the distinction of having been a member of the Legislative Assembly of his province of British Columbia.

Before I deal with the Speech from the Throne, I want to say that my association with the honourable Leader of this house (Hon. Mr. Macdonald) during the past few years has been most happy. I have enjoyed that association very much. To my mind it is very gratifying that men and women in a body such as this can carry on discussions, even when taking distinctly opposite sides, in a spirit of good fellowship; by so doing something is accomplished for themselves, if not for anyone else. Now, I would like to make one or two suggestions to the honourable leader but I do not wish to cause him to rise and state whether I am right or wrong. It appears that by about April 6 or 7 of this year Parliament will be prorogued, and that a day or two later it will be dissolved, and that we shall be into a general election on June 17, 1957. Considerable legislation is al-

ready on the Order Paper for consideration. I congratulate the honourable leader upon having succeeded with the Government and its ministers in getting that much legislation to deal with here, so that we may have something tangible to do. I suggest to the honourable leader that we push ahead with this legislation as soon as possible, to get it over to the other house in time for action to be taken on it there. I think there will probably be a dissolution of the House of Commons not later than April 10, which means that only about three months remain for the passing of legislation in both houses.

I now come to the Speech from the Throne. It contained a slight reference to the recent strike by locomotive firemen against the Canadian Pacific Railway. The strike has been settled or postponed until a judges' report is made by October, and the matter will come up for consideration at some future date, so I will say nothing further about it now. However, may I stress this point, that whether we are pro-labour men or anti-labour or on neither one side nor the other, we must bear in mind that we live in a democratic country. A great many of our disputes are settled by the courts of this country, and when a matter has gone as far as it can in our courts we accept the final judgment as the law of the land, although of course it can be changed by Parliament, or, in the case of a provincial matter, by the Legislature concerned. There are some disputes between labour and capital that I feel cannot be settled in the ordinary way. Many of them can be so settled, and there is no objection to that. However, matters affecting the country as a whole—such as, for instance, those having to do with railroads or hydro-electric power, or other industries which are nation-wide, it seems to me, have to be dealt with by some method better than a strike. I am not criticizing one side or the other in the recent dispute; in fact, if I had been directly concerned in one side or the other I probably would have been in favour of what that side did. But my point is that we need to take the next step to progress. The recent strike brings home to us the fact that we have to devise a better system, whatever it may be, to settle railway strikes, than one which disrupts transportation across our country and is very bad especially in the middle of winter, for scattered territories lying outside of the provinces of Ontario and Quebec.

Honourable senators, I should like to have discussed war expenditures today, and I must be quite candid and say that for the last three or four years I have been worried because of the amount of money we are spending at present. The year before last, and