

THE SENATE

Saturday, September 9, 1950

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

Prayers and routine proceedings.

DEFENCE APPROPRIATION BILL

FIRST READING

A message was received from the House of Commons with Bill 2, an Act for granting His Majesty aid for national defence and security.

The bill was read the first time.

SECOND READING POSTPONED

The Hon. the Speaker: When shall the bill be read the second time?

Hon. Wishart McL. Robertson: Honourable senators, I would ask that this bill be given second reading at the next sitting of the house.

Honourable senators will recall that a few days ago I suggested to the house that the bill be referred to the Special Committee on Legislation.

For the information of the house I may say that within a few minutes a second bill, an Act respecting the Canadian Forces, will be presented for our consideration, whereupon, I should like, with the consent of the house, to have it proceeded with at once. The special committee is scheduled to meet if and when the house has seen fit to give this bill second reading, and the Minister of National Defence will be present to answer any questions or supply any information with regard to it.

I have a further suggestion to make. The Minister of National Defence wishes to attend a meeting of veterans in Winnipeg tomorrow, and he intimated to me that it would be out of the question for him to be here early next week in order to attend a meeting of the Senate committee dealing with the Appropriation Bill. On the other hand, he said he would be very happy to attend today in order to answer questions about the Appropriation Bill as well as the Armed Forces Bill. In this way the business of the Senate would be facilitated.

Hon. Mr. Haig: Honourable senators, I am in entire agreement with the proposal of the honourable leader of the government (Hon. Mr. Robertson). When a meeting of veterans is being held in such an important city as Winnipeg, it is only proper that the Minister of National Defence should be there.

Hon. Mr. Robertson: Perhaps we should protect the minister against himself, and not fall in with his plans.

Some Hon. Senators: Oh, oh.

The second reading was postponed.

CANADIAN FORCES BILL

FIRST READING

A message was received from the House of Commons with Bill 3, an Act respecting the Canadian Forces.

The bill was read the first time.

SECOND READING

The Hon. the Speaker: When shall this bill be read the second time?

Hon. Mr. Robertson: With leave of the Senate, now. I have asked the honourable gentleman from Carleton (Hon. Mr. Fogo) to handle this bill.

Hon. J. Gordon Fogo moved the second reading of the bill.

He said: Honourable senators, it must be a matter of deep concern and regret that you meet here at this time to consider a situation which makes Canada a party in what is now a localized war, but which may possibly result in a further major conflict.

It is not so long ago, some thirty or thirty-five years, that Canada took part in a war against German militarism, the destruction of which we all hoped would lead to a period of peace. Following that struggle the League of Nations was set up for the purpose of preventing, if possible, any future war. That it failed to do so was perhaps caused by the fact that it did not command the full support of all the great powers, including the United States.

In 1939 Canada was again plunged into a world struggle. This time it was against dictators and the dangers of Fascist domination of the world. When the dictators and their armies were destroyed and broken, again the war-weary world met to try to devise a means of avoiding a repetition of such a struggle. Everyone believed that the time had arrived when international disputes could be settled by some other means than war. Consequently the United Nations Organization was set up, and among its objectives, the provision of security against aggression was one of the most important. The rise of communism and the obstructionist tactics followed by the representatives of the Soviet Russia in the Security Council have served largely to prevent the United Nations Organization from carrying out its objectives respecting the control of aggression, the veto power from time