

members of this committee are members of other committees as well. It was considered advisable to reduce the quorum in order that we might carry on the business of the committee in a proper way.

Motion agreed to.

PRIME MINISTER CURTIN

ANNOUNCEMENT OF ARRIVAL IN CANADA

Hon. J. L. RALSTON (Minister of National Defence): On behalf of the Prime Minister I should like to inform the house of the arrival in Canada of Prime Minister Curtin of Australia. Mr. Curtin reached this country this afternoon, and will arrive in Ottawa this evening from Montreal at 10.10 p.m. As hon. members may know, and will be glad to know, Mrs. Curtin, who accompanied Prime Minister Curtin from Australia to Washington, arrived in Ottawa earlier to-day.

Arrangements have been made for Mr. Curtin to address members of this house and of the senate on Thursday afternoon. It is my understanding that Mr. Curtin's address on that occasion will be broadcast so that all the citizens of Canada may have the privilege of hearing him.

It is proposed that when the house adjourns this evening the formal session will stand adjourned until four o'clock on Thursday, but it is anticipated that the members will assemble at the usual hour of three o'clock without going into formal session so that they may have the privilege of hearing, along with the members of the senate, the address of Mr. Curtin.

I am sure that I am speaking for all members of the house, and for the country generally, when I say that to us Mr. and Mrs. Curtin represent a sister dominion whose progress in peace and whose prowess in war have been a matter of pride and admiration on the part of the whole of the British commonwealth of nations. Therefore we feel particularly happy to welcome these two distinguished people on this occasion.

Mr. GORDON GRAYDON (Leader of the Opposition): May I just say in connection with the words which have been uttered by the acting leader of the government that the high standing of the Right Hon. Mr. Curtin and the nation which he represents will ensure for him and Mrs. Curtin a royal welcome while he is in Canada. We hope that our hospitality will know no bounds while they are here.

Mr. S. H. KNOWLES (Winnipeg North Centre): It is hardly necessary to add anything to what has been said already, but on

behalf of this group may I express our extreme pleasure at the forthcoming visit of the Prime Minister of Australia.

NAVAL SERVICE ACT

AMENDMENTS AND CONSOLIDATION—ADAPTATION OF UNITED KINGDOM NAVAL DISCIPLINE ACT, 1866

Hon. ANGUS L. MACDONALD (Minister of National Defence for Naval Services) moved for leave to introduce bill No. 112, respecting the naval service of Canada.

Mr. GRAYDON: I think the minister ought to explain.

Mr. MACDONALD (Kingston City): Briefly I may say that this bill has two main parts. The first part is the present Naval Service Act with some few amendments, none of them substantial in character, which experience has shown to be desirable in that act. The second part is an adaptation of the British naval discipline act of 1866. That act applies now to Canadian naval forces simply by reference. It is proposed to take that act and make such changes as are necessary to adapt it to Canadian use, and have it as part II of the new Naval Service Act.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

CANADIAN ARMED FORCES

PRESS REPORT OF STATEMENT OF DOCTOR PENFIELD AS TO SPECIAL CENTRES FOR NEUROLOGICAL TREATMENT

On the orders of the day:

Hon. H. A. BRUCE (Parkdale): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Pensions and National Health, of which I have given notice, in view of the statement made yesterday by Doctor Wilder G. Penfield, leading neurological surgeon on the North American continent and head of the Montreal Neurological Institute, who is reported in the *Gazette* of to-day to the effect that the offer to the government of the institute as a treatment centre had been turned down because of fear of the establishment of an embarrassing precedent. Doctor Penfield further said:

It is not for us to question this decision, but four and a half years of this war have now passed, and the Canadian government has done practically nothing to establish special centres for the care of war injuries of the nervous system; nothing at all in Quebec and the maritimes.

I would ask the minister to inform the house why this offer was not accepted.