

In such purely federal matters, and on such a question of convention, according to Clokie, page 206, there is no legal obligation for our government to consult with the provinces. Any attempt at such consultations would be illogical; it would set back the clock of time; it would mean considerable delays; and judging from our past experience, it might even result in a deadlock. The Dominion-Provincial conference will shortly be convened for studying plans to secure amendments to the parts of the British North America Act that are not covered by the present measure. This is in every respect the proper course to follow.

It does great credit indeed to our distinguished Prime Minister and to his colleagues. On this great national question Mr. St. Laurent has shown a rare quality of statesmanship, and he deserves our heartiest congratulations. For this contribution to our national maturity, our Prime Minister will pass into history as one of the great builders of our Canadian nation.

I am glad to support the adoption of the historic measure now before us, which will

remain forever an outstanding landmark in our constitutional evolution.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Howard the debate was adjourned.

THE ESTIMATES

CONSIDERATION BY STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hon. Mr. Robertson moved:

That the Standing Committee on Finance be authorized to examine expenditures proposed by the estimates laid before parliament, and by budget and other resolutions relating to proposed financial measures of which notice has been given to parliament, in advance of the bills based on the said estimates and resolutions reaching the Senate.

He said: Honourable senators will recall that this resolution is in the same form as a previous one. It has been introduced in response to the suggestions which were made when we were considering interim supply.

The motion was agreed to.

The Senate adjourned until tomorrow at 3 p.m.