

instance by the British North America Act, which provides, in section 31, as follows:

The place of a senator shall become vacant in any of the following cases:

(1) If for two consecutive sessions of the Parliament he fails to give his attendance in the Senate;

That is the Constitution, and we are bound by it. If it were a rule of the Senate this body could change it, but it is much more difficult to change the Constitution.

May I say to the honourable senator from New Westminster (Hon. Mr. Reid) that I am sure each one of us feels very badly, just as he does, that we are required by the Constitution to follow the procedure that we are following tonight. It brings a great sorrow to me personally to have to do so, because I entered Parliament on the same day as Senator Duffus. However, we are bound by the Constitution.

As to the length of the last session, I would point out that it opened on the 26th of November, and after a number of sitting days, it was adjourned and continued to be in existence until the 8th day of January of this year. Although there were not many sitting days, the session did last considerably longer than a month.

In any event, we are bound by the British North America Act and the Rules of the Senate. Therefore, with leave of the Senate I move:

That the Clerk's report relative to the absence of the Honourable Joseph James Duffus during two consecutive sessions of Parliament be referred to the Committee appointed to consider the Orders and Customs of the Senate and Privileges of Parliament: the Committee to meet in this chamber at a quarter of three o'clock in the afternoon of Thursday next.

The motion was agreed to.

### CANADA SHIPPING BILL

#### FIRST READING

**Hon. Mr. Macdonald** presented bill G, an Act to amend the Canada Shipping Act.

The bill was read the first time.

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

**Hon. Mr. Macdonald:** With leave of the Senate, next sitting.

### CURRENCY, MINT AND EXCHANGE FUND BILL

#### FIRST READING

**Hon. Mr. Macdonald** presented bill H, an Act to amend the Currency, Mint and Exchange Fund Act.

The bill was read the first time.

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

**Hon. Mr. Macdonald:** With leave of the Senate, next sitting.

### CANADA'S ECONOMIC PROSPECTS

#### REPORT OF ROYAL COMMISSION TABLED

**Hon. Mr. Macdonald:** Honourable senators, I beg leave to table copies in English and in French of the preliminary report of the Royal Commission on Canada's Economic Prospects, dated December, 1956. I believe a copy of this report has been distributed to each member of the Senate.

**Hon. Mr. Haig:** Would the honourable Leader of the Government (Hon. Mr. Macdonald) please instruct the appropriate official to furnish additional copies of this report to honourable senators? I should like very much to use one or two more copies and I have none available.

**Hon. Mr. Macdonald:** I shall endeavour to obtain a number of additional copies for honourable senators.

### PRIVATE BILL

#### CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS WAR VETERANS' ASSOCIATION—REFUND OF FEES

**Hon. Mr. Golding** moved:

That the parliamentary fees paid upon a proposed bill at the third session of the Twenty-Second Parliament, to incorporate Canadian National Railways War Veterans' Association, be refunded to James C. Neilson, of Stratford, Ontario, solicitor for petitioners, less printing and translation costs.

He said: Honourable senators, I should like to give a brief explanation of this motion. In July, 1955, a petition was filed in the Senate in this matter and certain fees were paid. In August of 1956 a communication was received from the solicitor for the petitioners stating that at a meeting of the Canadian National Railway War Veterans' Association a resolution was passed directing that no further action be taken with respect to the private bill. No action was taken by the Senate at all, and consequently the association, through its solicitor, is requesting that the parliamentary fees paid upon the proposed bill be refunded, less printing and translation costs.

The motion was agreed to.

### SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

#### MOTION FOR ADDRESS IN REPLY—DEBATE ADJOURNED

The Senate proceeded to consideration of His Excellency the Governor General's