

THE SENATE

Wednesday, November 28, 1956

The Senate met at 3 p.m. the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers.

Routine Proceedings.

EMERGENCY SITTINGS

NOTICE OF MOTION

Hon. W. Ross Macdonald: Honourable senators, I give notice of the following motion, which I shall move tomorrow:

That, for the duration of the present session of Parliament, should an emergency arise during any adjournment of the Senate, which would in the opinion of the Honourable the Speaker warrant that the Senate meet prior to the time set forth in the motion for such adjournment, the Honourable the Speaker be authorized to notify honourable senators at their addresses registered with the Clerk of the Senate, to meet at a time earlier than that set out in the motion for such adjournment, and non-receipt by any one or more honourable senators of such call shall not have any effect upon the sufficiency and validity thereof.

Hon. Mr. Haig: Will the honourable leader read what the Prime Minister said in the other place?

Hon. Mr. Macdonald: I thought I had a copy of the statement here, but I have not. However, I may say the intention is that when Parliament has completed the business for which it has been called into session, that is, in respect of the setting up of a United Nations police force, and the provision of assistance to Hungarian refugees, both houses will adjourn until Tuesday, January 8. The reason for this is that should another emergency arise in the meantime, we can be summoned to meet on short notice at any time. If we are not called back earlier than the 8th of January we shall reconvene at 11 o'clock on that morning, at which time the present session will be prorogued. In the afternoon we shall begin a new session. That is the purport of the motion which I wish to present formally tomorrow, and I am indebted to the honourable Leader of the Opposition (Hon. Mr. Haig) for suggesting that I should state what the intention is.

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. Wall, seconded by Hon. Mr. Fournier, for an Address in reply thereto.

Hon. John T. Haig: Honourable senators, I can promise you that I will not delay you for long. First of all I wish to congratulate the mover (Hon. Mr. Wall) and the seconder (Hon. Mr. Fournier) of this motion. I especially congratulate the mover, whose speech I understood. I am sorry to say that I could not follow the language of the seconder, and therefore I cannot say whether I agree with what he said or not; however, I presume the translation of his speech will appear in our *Hansard* tomorrow. These younger senators have given a fine exhibition of their worth in this chamber, and an excellent indication of their worth in the years to come. I hope that twenty years or so from now they will recall with pride that they moved and seconded the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne in the special session of 1956.

Honourable members, I took the liberty yesterday of mentioning certain matters that I do not intend to deal with at this time, and I did so because it occurred to me that somebody might ask why I did not touch on them. I said quite candidly that I was going to restrain my remarks to the matters referred to in the Speech from the Throne.

As honourable senators know, the Speech from the Throne deals with two subjects, namely, the situation in the Middle East, and recent events in Hungary. I will deal with them in the same order. This is the first time in my memory, and I think in the memory of most if not all of us that a question has arisen concerning a joint action of Britain and France, those two great pioneering nations from whose loins this country has sprung. I say that without any disrespect to the people of other nations who have come to our shores. In the course of our political struggles we have sometimes felt that the English did not act rightly, and at other times it seemed to us that the French were at fault. But here is an instance in which both our ancestral nations have acted together, rightly or wrongly. There can be no question as to that in this debate.

Let me give you some reasons for the widespread interest throughout Canada in world developments today. I know that in my own province there is far greater interest in questions involving the Middle East today than in anything else I have known of throughout my political life. The general interest arises from one or two main considerations. First, there are such questions as what the United Nations might have done, or what the United States should have done, what Britain and France did, and what