

of the house I should like to take advantage of the opportunity to say a few words about the present session.

I wish to thank personally the members of the Senate generally for the co-operation and courtesy which I have experienced at their hands, and particularly want to thank the individual senators who have assisted me in presenting legislation to this house for consideration. I feel that exceedingly creditable work has been done in this respect. I may say that I should be quite ready to increase the numbers of those honourable senators who assist in presenting legislation to this house, if individual members would indicate to me their willingness to participate in this work.

I want to thank the members of our various standing committees for the careful and thorough manner in which they have considered legislation that has been referred to them. While all our committees have creditably discharged the responsibilities assigned to them, circumstances have decreed that most of the work should be done by the Committees on Banking and Commerce and the Committee on Divorce.

These facts would indicate the responsibility of the Committee of Selection, which at the beginning of each session recommends to the Senate the names of the senators who are to comprise the membership of the various committees. Therefore I would ask now that at the beginning of the next session the Committee of Selection give special consideration to the membership of the two standing committees I have mentioned. In the case of the Committee on Banking and Commerce, I believe that past attendance records should be taken into consideration, so that, as far as possible the membership of that committee should be comprised of those who can and will attend its sessions. Consideration should be given also to increasing the membership of the Divorce Committee, so that the arduous duties which its members perform will not fall on the shoulders of so few. Further, the desirability of nominating to that committee additional mem-

bers from the legal profession; and I express the hope that those nominated will agree to serve. With a larger committee it should not be impossible to work out a system of rotation in the hearing of cases, so that no undue burden may be placed on any one member.

In the past the Senate has rendered a very useful service to the general public through special investigations carried on by individual committees, acting on their own initiative, into matters of particular public interest. I think we might well consider carrying on work of this nature next session, though limitations of time and space may make it undesirable to undertake too many special committees. I would be quite willing that any particular subject which might be felt to be of paramount interest to senators generally should be considered by a committee. It has been intimated to me—and I have already referred to it in this house—that, because of existing world conditions, one question of great public interest is Canada's trade relations. In fact, one senator has sent to me a well-prepared specific resolution along these lines, and while I have no desire to exclude consideration of anything else which may come before honourable senators, I hope that serious thought may be given to this particular subject during the next session.

**Some Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear.

**Hon. Mr. Robertson:** Honourable senators, I intend to move that when this house adjourns, it stand adjourned until tomorrow morning at 11 o'clock. I am not optimistic enough to suggest that the Supply Bill will then be before us; but should we adjourn until a later time tomorrow it would be difficult, should the bill reach us in the interim, to summon honourable senators to the chamber. If at 11 o'clock the hopes of the optimists are not fulfilled, we will adjourn during pleasure to await the arrival of the one remaining piece of legislation to be dealt with.

The Senate adjourned until tomorrow at 11 a.m.