

evidence has not yet been printed, I think we should have an explanation of the reason why these refunds are to be made.

Hon. Mr. ROBINSON: I thought the general procedure for handling these matters was well known. A small proportion of the petitioners for divorce apply for remission of part of the parliamentary fees, on the ground of inability to pay them in full. This is not a rich man's Parliament, although some people appear to think it is. We discuss every one of these applications on its merits. It is provided in the Rules that the committee, if satisfied that the petitioner is not financially in a position to pay all the fees, may recommend that part of them be remitted. The initial fee, if I remember correctly, is \$210, which perhaps more than pays for the cost. I do not know what the actual cost of the printing is. In very few cases do we reduce the fee to less than \$100. In some cases, however, the committee has felt justified in reducing it to \$75, and even to \$50. Most of the persons who apply for divorce have not much means. Many of them have very little money and no property or other assets. Quite often the applicant is a woman who has been deserted by her husband and has to depend upon her own industry to support herself and any child or children she may have. Honourable members can well understand why the committee thinks it advisable in such cases to reduce the fees.

The motion was agreed to, on division, and the Bills were severally read the second time.

### THIRD READINGS

Hon. Mr. ROBINSON: Honourable senators, with leave of the Senate I would move that these Bills be read a third time now.

Hon. Mr. HUGESSEN: Do I understand that the evidence in these cases has not yet been printed?

Hon. Mr. ROBINSON: That is right.

Hon. Mr. HUGESSEN: Surely we should not give third readings to these Bills until the evidence has been printed and made available for consideration by honourable members.

Hon. Mr. ASELTINE: Does the honourable gentleman wish to read the evidence?

Hon. Mr. HUGESSEN: No.

Hon. Mr. ROBINSON: I do not know what to say about this. We cannot have the third readings this afternoon except by unanimous consent, and, if the honourable gentleman objects, I suppose we shall have to wait until—when?

The Hon. the SPEAKER: Next sitting.

Hon. Mr. KING: About two or three weeks.

Hon. Mr. ROBINSON: That is a long wait. If we put the Bills through to-day, the honourable gentleman would have an opportunity to read some literature later on. I should like the Bills to be passed to-day, but I do not know whether I can persuade him to consent.

Hon. Mr. HUGESSEN: Honourable senators, I was impressed by the debate we had a short while ago about the importance of the duties of the Senate. It seemed to me that, as we had this work to do, and as it was incumbent upon us to pass competent judgment upon the Bills, we should at least have the opportunity, much as we might not wish to take advantage of it—

Hon. Mr. HAIG: Does the honourable senator wish to become a member of the Divorce Committee?

Hon. Mr. HUGESSEN: No.

Hon. Mr. HAIG: I would give him my place.

Hon. Mr. HUGESSEN: We should have an opportunity of reading the evidence adduced before the committee.

Hon. Mr. ROBINSON: Will the honourable gentleman withdraw his objection? I may say the Divorce Committee has quite a lot of work to do; and perhaps the Senate and the public should know that at least one committee is doing some work.

Hon. Mr. CALDER: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. ROBINSON: I think that so far this session we have received 102 petitions. They will not all come before us, but we still have a good deal of work to do. It may interest honourable members to know that during the last adjournment of the Senate our committee sat for a week or ten days, and, if there is to be a further adjournment now, some of us will have to stay over and work all next week. I should be pleased to make this motion to-morrow, if the Senate could help us out with our work.

Hon. Mr. HUGESSEN: I withdraw my objection.

The motion was agreed to, on division, and the Bills were severally read the third time, and passed.

### PRIVATE BILL

#### REPORT OF COMMITTEE

Hon. Mr. TANNER presented the report of the Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Private Bills on Bill C, an Act to change the