

THE SENATE

Thursday, January 30, 1969

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

Prayers.

DISSOLUTION AND ANNULMENT OF MARRIAGES

TERMINATION OF DUTIES OF HON. MR. JUSTICE ALLISON A. M. WALSH AS OFFICER OF THE SENATE

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, I have the honour to inform the Senate that I have received the following communication from the Hon. Mr. Justice Allison A. M. Walsh:

The Honourable
Jean-Paul Deschatelets, P.C.,
The Speaker of the Senate,
The Senate,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Mr. Speaker:

On the 19th of November, 1963, I was designated by the then Speaker of the Senate, pursuant to section 3 of the Dissolution and Annulment of Marriages Act, to be an Officer of the Senate, to hear evidence on petitions for dissolution or annulment of marriages and to report thereon.

Subsequently, following an amendment to the Exchequer Court Act, assented to on June 18, 1964, section 6A was added reading as follows:

"A judge of the Court designated by the Speaker of the Senate for the purpose of this section after consultation with the President of the Court, if he is granted leave of absence for such purpose by the Governor in Council from his duties as a judge of the Court, has and may exercise and perform all of the powers, duties and functions of the officer of the Senate referred to in section 3 of the Dissolution and Annulment of Marriages Act."

I was duly appointed to the Exchequer Court and granted leave of absence under the provisions of this section and have ever since continued to act as Commissioner of the Senate, the name given by the Rules to the officer designated for this purpose.

This work has now been substantially concluded since no new petitions can be filed to proceed by way of Resolution of the Senate since July 2, 1968, the date of proclamation of the Divorce Act assented to February 1, 1968. The petitions which remain to be heard can be dealt with by Judge Cameron, the other Commissioner and there is insufficient work remaining to justify my continuing to act as Commissioner.

I attended a meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Divorce on January 22 at which meeting I explained the situation to them and a resolution was passed approving my proposed release.

I therefore hereby request that I be relieved of my duties as an Officer of the Senate.

Yours sincerely,

Allison A. M. Walsh

Honourable senators, pursuant to the authority conferred upon me by Section 3 of the Dissolution and Annulment of Marriages Act, I hereby terminate the designation of the Honourable Mr. Justice Allison Arthur Mariotti Walsh, as an Officer of the Senate to hear evidence on petitions for dissolution or annulment of marriages and to report thereon, and he is, as of this day, relieved, at his request, of his duties as an Officer of the Senate.

Honourable senators, the letter and announcement which I have just read will, of course, appear verbatim in Senate *Hansard*. Since the duties performed by the Honourable Justice Walsh were so satisfactory, and since we were so happy in our association with him, I did not want this announcement to appear without adding to the record a personal letter which I wrote to him on your behalf.

I wrote to the Honourable Mr. Justice Walsh on January 30 in these terms:

Dear Sir:

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of January 29th to which was attached a personal note in which you expressed the great satisfaction you had enjoyed in working as the Senate Commissioner, and on behalf of myself and all the Senators may I also express to you our appreciation for the faithful and painstaking duties you have performed as Divorce Commissioner of the Senate.

At the next sitting of the Senate, I intend to inform the honourable senators