

THE SENATE

Thursday, January 25, 1962

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

Prayers.

DOCUMENT TABLED

Hon. Walter M. Aseltine tabled:

Further Supplementary Estimates (2) for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1962.

He said: Honourable senators, if I am in order I would like to mention that I understand these further supplementary estimates are being dealt with in the other place tomorrow.

Hon. Mr. Farris: Do they show a surplus?

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: The bill will probably reach us early next week.

Honourable senators will receive a copy of this material today in their post office boxes. I am not asking that the Senate sit on Monday evening next, but I would like to proceed with these estimates as the first item of business on Tuesday next, if that can be agreed upon. In the meantime I would ask all honourable senators to study them carefully and be ready to make any remarks they may wish to make when the bill comes before us for consideration.

STANDING COMMITTEES

CHANGE IN MEMBERSHIP

Hon. George S. White, with leave of the Senate, moved:

That the name of the Honourable Senator Irvine be substituted for that of the Honourable Senator Quart on the lists of senators serving on the Standing Committee on Internal Economy and Contingent Accounts and the Standing Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds.

Motion agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Walter M. Aseltine: Honourable senators, with leave of the Senate, I move that when the Senate adjourns today it do stand adjourned until Tuesday next, January 30, 1962, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

Motion agreed to.

SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION SYSTEM

SUGGESTION FOR IMPROVEMENT

On the Orders of the Day:

Hon. Lionel Choquette: Honourable senators, before the Orders of the Day are called I would like to make a suggestion as to the simultaneous translation system in use in this chamber. No doubt it has been advantageous, but I think it has also become a disturbing factor. Yesterday when speeches were being delivered we could hear the voice of the interpreter in the chamber, which was quite disturbing and distracting. Those who are responsible for the installation of the system should be asked to look into this matter. It may be that the difficulty could be overcome by installing a larger earphone that would cover the ear, so as to prevent the escape of the voice of the translator, as happens with the apparatus we now have. Yesterday I know it was quite disturbing to hear throughout the chamber the voice of the interpreter immediately after each sentence was spoken. I think the system can be improved.

The Hon. the Speaker: I believe the main difficulty is caused by honourable senators who use the earphones with the volume turned up too high. That was the case yesterday during the speech delivered by the honourable senator from Shawinigan (Hon. Mr. Méthot). I made an experiment with my own earphone and found that when the volume was turned low I could still hear very well, and the voice of the interpreter was not projected any distance from the earphone. Before we start suggesting changes in the equipment I think honourable senators should tune down their earphones, otherwise they become broadcasting stations. We should experiment further along this line, and we may be able to correct the difficulty without calling in the Bell Telephone Company. The honourable senator from North York (Hon. Mr. Sullivan) may have something to say on this matter. He is a specialist.

Hon. Joseph A. Sullivan: Honourable senators, with all due respect to His Honour the Speaker, I think this difficulty can be very easily remedied by providing a small malleable earpiece that could be plugged right into the receiver. It is the extraneous noises around that interfere with the reception of sound, and most of the sound is being diffused throughout the chamber instead of into the ear canal. A small artificial mold that would push into the button would remedy the problem very easily.

Hon. Norman McL. Paterson: Since I was one of the offenders yesterday, I apologize. I did not know that the sound was getting