

Hon. Mr. MacLennan: Is it like "Freeman and Stubbs, buttering each other from alternate tubs?"

Some Hon. Senators: Oh, oh.

Hon. Mr. Haig: It has been suggested by some of my friends in this house that such a discussion as this might not be advisable. I regret to say that I cannot agree with them. In my opinion there is a tremendous misunderstanding on the part of the public as to the purpose and work of the Senate.

Hon. Mr. Lambert: Would my friend include parliament generally in that statement?

Hon. Mr. Haig: Perhaps we should include both houses. But I do not think there is much misunderstanding of the Senate on the part of members of the other house, for whenever one of them has an opportunity to come here, he never publicly refuses. There are many university professors and others who rely on gossip appearing in the press, and who have an entirely wrong impression of the purpose of the Senate.

I am going to try to bring to the public some information about what the Senate has done in the past, what it is doing today, and what it hopes to do in the future. If every member of this house will take part in the discussion, I am sure it will be thoroughly worth while.

I agree with the honourable leader that no more important appointment can be given to a man or a woman in Canada than an appointment to the Senate. The responsibility resting on this house is very great. For my part, I am not very much worried about whether the composition of its membership is all Liberal, all Conservative or what have you. We need only go through the record to learn that Sir Wilfred Laurier had very little trouble with the Senate until he got a majority in it. The same is true of Sir Robert Borden. When the Right Honourable Mr. Bennett came into power his party was in the minority in the Senate, but as soon as he gained a majority his legislation got kicked all around.

Before concluding these few remarks, I plead with all the members of my party to take part in this debate, regardless of whether or not they agree with my views on the question. If we have a full discussion the public will understand the matter thoroughly. I am quite sure that none of us want to be members of this house if we fail to give adequate service to the people of Canada.

Honourable senators, I move the adjournment of the debate.

The motion was agreed to, and the debate was adjourned.

DIVORCE BILLS

FIRST READINGS

Hon. Mr. Aseltine, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Divorce, presented the following bills:

Bill I, an Act for the relief of John Andrew Hague.

Bill J, an Act for the relief of Jane Louise Welle Kennedy.

Bill K, an Act for the relief of Frances Danforth Stephens Ross de Lall.

Bill L, an Act for the relief of Daphne May Hodgson Frosst.

Bill M, an Act for the relief of Celia Frances Cantlie Molson.

Bill N, an Act for the relief of Rowland Walter Tyner.

Bill O, an Act for the relief of Maeve Mary Margaret McPherson Mackenzie.

Bill P, an Act for the relief of Judith Francis Cohen Besner.

Bill Q, an Act for the relief of Edith Mary Bentley Towler.

Bill R, an Act for the relief of Patricia Galley Mulvey.

Bill S, an Act for the relief of Ethel Kershaw Warren.

Bill T, an Act for the relief of Petrus (Peter) Surkala.

Bill U, an Act for the relief of Doris Demree McMullen.

The bills were read the first time.

The Hon. the Speaker: When shall these bills be read the second time?

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: With leave of the Senate, next sitting.

PRIVATE BILL

SECOND READING

Hon. J. H. King moved the second reading of Bill E, an Act respecting the British Columbia Telephone Company.

He said: Honourable senators, the purpose of this bill is to increase the authorized capital of the company from \$25 million to \$75 million. The growth in population of the province and the area served by this telephone company has been of a character and kind to make further large expenditures necessary. The company estimates that it will require an expenditure of \$10 million per year for the next few years.

The company inaugurated an expansion program in 1946, and has issued the capital authorized to the extent of \$20 million. I am informed by the company that it is proposed to issue the remaining \$5 million of stock shortly, probably before this bill is assented to by the house.

The company operates 90 per cent of the telephone lines, and the major portion of the