

THE SENATE

Tuesday, December 2, 1952

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

Prayers and routine proceedings.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE

PRINTING OF PROCEEDINGS

Hon. C. J. Veniot presented and moved concurrence in the report of the Standing Committee on Public Health and Welfare.

The report was read by the Clerk Assistant, as follows:

The Standing Committee on Public Health and Welfare beg leave to report as follows:—

1. Your committee recommend that authority be granted for the printing of 600 copies in English and 200 copies in French of its proceedings on the Bill J, intituled: "An Act respecting food, drugs, cosmetics and therapeutic devices", and that Rule 100 be suspended in relation to the said printing.

The motion was agreed to.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

ADDRESS IN REPLY

The Senate resumed from Tuesday, November 25, the consideration of His Excellency the Governor General's Speech at the opening of the session, and the motion of Hon. Mr. Vaillancourt for an address in reply thereof.

Hon. John T. Haig: Honourable senators, at the outset I want to say that I have prepared a draft copy of my address. My colleague on my left (Hon. Mr. Aseltine) has remarked that I will make a better speech if I do not read it in which I do not agree with him—so there I am.

I should first like to congratulate the mover (Hon. Mr. Vaillancourt) and the seconder (Hon. Mr. Hawkins) of the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. I am sorry that I could not follow the remarks of the mover, but I read the translation of what he said and enjoyed it thoroughly. While I do not agree with all the conclusions he reached, I do appreciate a great many of the problems he dealt with. It made me realize that the people in his part of the country have the same thoughts about the problems confronting Canada as we in Manitoba have. It is a splendid thing that a representative of a great province such as Quebec can give us in his own language an explanation of the affairs of his part of the country, and that when we read the English translation we find

that the speech could well have been delivered by a representative of Manitoba, Nova Scotia or any other province.

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Haig: The seconder of the motion made a fine speech, but it sounded to me like an address delivered by a member of the House of Commons who was expecting to face the people of his constituency within the next ten months. He sounded as though he were getting ready for a campaign and I do not think that sort of thing is necessary in our house. I feel that it is a mistake to adopt this practice because it enables the critics of the Senate to say that we carry politics into this chamber.

Some Hon. Senators: Oh, oh.

Hon. Mr. Haig: I do not suggest for one moment that a man of a certain political stripe—whether he be Conservative, Liberal or what have you—should forget his party allegiance when he comes to the Senate. I would not think a whit of him if he did. We sit here not as representatives of some part of the country, but as representatives of our respective provinces, and really as representatives of the whole dominion. My honourable friend's speech was able, very able, but at the same time I myself—and I speak only for myself—felt that it did not give the reaction of his province to the problems of the day, but rather the reaction of the Liberals of Canada, and that was not what I wanted to know. I say this with humility, for I might make a similar mistake myself. However, the senator from Kennebec (Hon. Mr. Vaillancourt) did give us the reaction of his province of Quebec to present problems.

Before going further I wish to say that the Commonwealth is to be congratulated upon the fact that in the coming year a new Sovereign is to be crowned at Westminster, a young woman who is a credit not only to Great Britain but to womankind the whole world over.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Haig: I believe that she will, as did the former Elizabeth, bring a new spirit into the world, a spirit that the world sorely needs today. I do not wish to make further comment on this subject just now.

We are, I suppose, beginning what is to be the last session of this parliament. I know that the government can remain in office until August of 1954, but it has been the general practice of governments in our country to go before the people not later than four years after being elected. Whenever a government ran over that period it ran out.