

SAO PAULO ELECTRIC COMPANY, LIMITED—
FIRST READING

Hon. John J. Connolly presented Bill F, respecting Sao Paulo Electric Company, Limited.

The bill was read the first time.

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, when shall this bill be read the second time?

Hon. Mr. Connolly: Wednesday next.

BRAZILIAN HYDRO ELECTRIC COMPANY,
LIMITED—FIRST READING

Hon. John J. Connolly presented Bill G, respecting Brazilian Hydro Electric Company, Limited.

The bill was read the first time.

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, when shall this bill be read the second time?

Hon. Mr. Connolly: Wednesday next.

BRAZILIAN TRACTION, LIGHT AND POWER
COMPANY, LIMITED—FIRST READING

Hon. John J. Connolly presented Bill H, respecting Brazilian Traction, Light and Power Company, Limited.

The bill was read the first time.

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, when shall this bill be read the second time?

Hon. Mr. Connolly: Wednesday next.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

MOTION FOR ADDRESS IN REPLY—
DEBATE CONTINUED

The Senate resumed from yesterday consideration of Her Majesty the Queen's Speech at the opening of the session and the motion of Hon. Mr. White, seconded by Hon. Mr. Méthot, for an Address in reply thereto.

Hon. John T. Haig: Honourable senators,—

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Haig:—I find myself in some little difficulty. On twelve different occasions I have risen in this house as the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate to make the first speech here for my party after the speeches of the mover and seconder in the debate on the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, and on those occasions I have always criticized the Government. Now as Leader of the Government in the Senate I am scared to death that before this speech is concluded I will slip up somewhere and start criticizing the present Government. If I do you will know it is entirely a slip.

Hon. Mr. Farris: Let your conscience be your guide.

Hon. Mr. Haig: I warn you that I have every intention of trying to praise the Government before I am through. I am very happy to record that every member of Parliament, every citizen of Ottawa and I am sure every person in the dominion of Canada was delighted that our Queen, Elizabeth the Second, and His Royal Highness the Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, came to visit this country, and that Her Majesty opened her Parliament of Canada. It was the first time that a reigning sovereign came here to open Parliament, and it will probably be some time before this happens again. We in this chamber were doubly delighted. I do not want to boast about the Senate, but I think this body seems to stand closer to the Crown than any other parliamentary body in the dominion of Canada. We were all most pleased with Her Majesty's gracious conduct during her entire visit, and we were particularly pleased when she came to this house to read her Speech from the Throne in our two languages.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Haig: I cannot help saying that originally I was not in favour of televising the opening of Parliament until I received letters from the mothers of my grandchildren and also from some of my friends in the United States. Two of my grandchildren, said to their father: "We wonder what the Queen said to granddad, and what he said to the Queen. We will judge whether he is a good actor or not by the language he employed on that occasion". When I return home I shall be expected to answer that question.

Honourable senators, we were delighted at the visit of royalty; it justified our long confidence in our system of government whereby we could have under our own jurisdiction a separate estate which would not be part of our politics at all, and yet which would enable us in the case of a crisis to use good judgment between the parties and to choose for ourselves a man or woman as leader, whether for a province or for the country. We in Canada are upholders of that system of government and of that system of freedom which no other nation can surpass and which many nations cannot equal. This is the system of government copied from the Mother Country, and also copied from some of the other parts of the Commonwealth of Nations. We are indeed very happy that Her Majesty, with her consort, the Prince, came and visited us on this occasion.

I wish now to say a word or two to you, sir, the Speaker of this house. We are delighted to have you with us as Speaker. I am reminded of a little story, which is personal, but I will tell it. A very close friend of mine was a pilot on a bomber flying over Germany. The