

on or after that day, and to have applied to goods previously imported for which no entry for consumption was made before that day.

The motion was agreed to, and the bill was read the second time.

THIRD READING

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

Hon. Mr. Robertson: I move third reading now.

The motion was agreed to, and the bill was read the third time, and passed.

SESSIONAL ALLOWANCES BILL

FIRST READING

A message was received from the House of Commons with Bill 7, an Act respecting payment of Sessional Allowances and transportation expenses to Members of the Senate and the House of Commons.

The bill was read the first time.

SECOND READING

Hon. Wishart McL. Robertson moved the second reading of the bill.

He said: This bill has to do with circumstances resulting from the calling of the present session of parliament. The fact that this is a special session has no special relevance in this connection, but it is pointed out that probably at a very early date parliament will be adjourned. Under the existing law, if parliament were shortly to adjourn to some later date, the period of adjournment, unless it were otherwise ordered, would be included for purposes of the sessional allowance, and when sixty-five days had elapsed honourable senators and members of the House of Commons would be entitled to a full sessional indemnity. The government is not favourable to such a course, nor do I believe any honourable senator or member of parliament would desire that it be adopted. The present bill has therefore been drafted. I shall read it:

1. For the purposes of the provisions of the Senate and House of Commons Act relating to the payment of sessional allowances to Members of the Senate and House of Commons, whenever during the session of Parliament that commenced on the twenty-ninth day of August, nineteen hundred and fifty, either house is adjourned for more than one week, the number of days of such adjournment shall not be reckoned as days of attendance for members of that house, and if after any such adjournment the sittings of that house are resumed, the provisions of the said Act relating to payment to each member of moving, transportation and living expenses while on the journey between his place of residence and Ottawa shall apply in respect of the members of that house as though the resumed sittings were a new session.

In short from the date of the assembly of parliament, the recompense of honourable senators will be on a per diem basis which will also apply to adjournments for no longer than one week. If after such an adjournment the sittings of the house are resumed, honourable senators and members will be entitled to their expenses as though the resumed sittings were a new session.

Hon. W. M. Aseltine: Honourable senators, in view of the seriousness of the present world situation, I believe that opposition members are glad that parliament is not to be prorogued. We feel that it may be necessary to resume business at almost any time; and it is much easier to call parliament together after an adjournment than to begin a new session. I therefore favour this measure. The government leader has not told us to what date we are to adjourn, and the bill contains no reference to the matter. Presumably it is a question of public policy. Can the leader advise us if any date has been set?

Hon. Mr. Robertson: I do not know that I differ much from my honourable friend as to the desirability of proceeding by way of adjournment. If parliament were prorogued instead of adjourned, and a special session were deemed necessary, there would be the formalities of the opening of parliament and a Speech from the Throne. No doubt the only limitation applicable to either proceeding, whether calling parliament back after an adjournment or beginning a new session, is the physical one of bringing the members together. There is no limitation in any way, shape or form.

As regards to what date parliament will adjourn to, I have before me the same draft motion as was presented in the other place, but I think it would be superfluous for me to introduce it until the House of Commons decides what course it will follow. I understand that there has been considerable debate in the other house as to the terms of this motion. I do not know that it will be agreed to in its present form, but I presume I should ask the Senate to agree to whatever decision is eventually made by the members of the other house.

Hon. Mr. Quinn: Has the bill been given third reading in the other place?

Hon. Mr. Robertson: Yes, but I have not been advised as to the motion for adjournment. When the question is disposed of in the other place it will not come to us in the form of a resolution. I shall simply move that when the Senate adjourns it stand adjourned until such and such a date. As I say, I do not think there is any point