

## THE SENATE

Tuesday, January 15, 1957

The Senate met at 8 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers.

Routine proceedings.

### NEW SENATORS INTRODUCED

**The Hon. the Speaker** having informed the Senate that there were senators without, waiting to be introduced:

The following newly-summoned senators were severally introduced; presented Her Majesty's writs of summons, which were read by the Clerk Assistant; took the legally prescribed oath, which was administered by the Clerk, and were seated:

**Hon. Sydney John Smith**, of Kamloops, British Columbia, introduced between Hon. Mr. Macdonald and Hon. Mrs. Hodges.

**Hon. William Albert Boucher**, of Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, introduced between Hon. Mr. Macdonald and Hon. Mr. Crerar.

**The Hon. the Speaker** informed the Senate that each of the two newly-summoned senators named above had made and subscribed the declaration of qualification required by the British North America Act, 1867, in the presence of the Clerk of the Senate, the Commissioner appointed to receive and witness the said declaration.

### WELCOME TO NEW SENATORS

**The Hon. the Speaker:** Honourable senators, a little more than a year ago we greeted the senators who, at that time, had for the first time taken their seats in this chamber. On this occasion I feel that I cannot do better than to repeat, at least in essence, what I then said:

On behalf of the Senate of Canada, we extend the most cordial welcome to those who have now taken their seats in this chamber. You will find here, honourable senators, a pleasant atmosphere far transcending any sharp differences of opinion that may from time to time arise in the consideration of legislation. You will at times be surprised at the expedition with which legislation is disposed of, until you appreciate the fact that the Senate embraces in its membership men and women of wide experience accustomed to assess quickly the import of what comes before them. There has always existed, and will exist in the future, ample opportunity

for greater utilization of the undoubted talents and experiences possessed by members of this house over and above that required in the consideration of what comes regularly before them. You, with the great prestige and experience hitherto gained in your respective spheres of endeavour, are in a position to add materially in this respect.

We welcome you, and wish you well.

### HON. J. J. DUFFUS

ABSENCE DURING TWO SESSIONS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

**The Hon. the Speaker:** Honourable senators, I have the honour to present to the Senate the following report from the Clerk of the Senate

The Honourable Wishart McL. Robertson, P.C., Speaker of the Senate of Canada, Ottawa, Ontario.

Sir,

In compliance with Rule 104 of the Senate, I have the honour to report that on looking over the record of attendance at the sittings of the Senate by members thereof, I find that the Honourable Joseph James Duffus, one of the members for the Province of Ontario, has not appeared in his seat during any one of said sittings throughout the whole of the last two sessions of Parliament.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. F. MacNeill,

Clerk of the Senate.

**Hon. Thomas Reid:** Honourable senators, may I be permitted to rise on a question of privilege on the point that has been raised in the report just read? This goes to show that when a rule is made one is not always aware of how it will operate. I understand that under the Rules of the Senate if an honourable senator does not attend for two sessions he has to resign; but let me point out that one of the sessions referred to in this report lasted four days only. Yet that counts as a session, short though it was.

**Hon. Mr. Howard:** We did not have a session of four days. Parliament sat for four days and then adjourned for more than a month.

**Hon. Mr. Reid:** My information is that Parliament sat for only four days. And I remember that some years ago a session of Parliament was opened and closed within half an hour. That also was considered a session.

I bring up the point to show how a rule of this kind can operate against an honourable senator. I hope that note of the point I raise will be taken by the honourable leader (Hon. Mr. Macdonald).

**Hon. Mr. Macdonald:** Honourable senators, I should point out that we are bound in this