

## THE SENATE

Wednesday, September 21, 1949.

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

Prayers and routine proceedings.

## COMMITTEE OF SELECTION

## PRESENTATION OF REPORT

**Hon. A. B. Copp** presented the report of the Committee of Selection.

*(See appendix at end of today's report.)*

**The Hon. the Speaker:** When shall this report be taken into consideration?

**Hon Mr. Robertson:** Tomorrow.

Honourable senators, I should like to make an explanation for the benefit of our newer members, who are not as familiar with the procedure of this house as are those of us who have been here for a longer period of time. It is customary for the Committee of Selection to appoint representatives from both parties to the various standing committees. This is done in accordance with the best information available to the committee as to the individual interests of the members. Some vacancies are left on the committees for new senators whose special knowledge and ability qualifies them to serve. The list of the Standing Committees will be published, and if honourable senators who desire a change will make their wishes known, a change will be made if this is feasible. I understand that the Committee on Banking and Commerce is complete at the moment, but it may be that from time to time some honourable senators who have been nominated to serve on this committee will tender their resignations, thus making room for others who may wish to serve on this committee. It is our aim and desire to enable honourable senators to serve on as many committees as they may desire. If the appointments cannot be made now, we shall endeavour to make them at the first opportunity.

**Hon. Mr. Haig:** I would add to the remarks of the honourable leader opposite (Hon. Mr. Robertson), that honourable senators are permitted to attend meetings of committees to which they have not been appointed, and to participate in the discussions; but they are not allowed to vote.

## CRIMINAL CODE BILL

## FIRST READING

**Hon. Mr. Robertson** presented Bill D, an Act to amend the Criminal Code.

The bill was read the first time.

## SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

## ADDRESS IN REPLY

The Senate resumed from yesterday, the consideration of His Excellency the Governor General's Speech at the opening of the session, and the motion of Hon. Mr. Godbout for an address in reply thereto.

**Hon. John T. Haig:** In rising to take part in this historic debate, I first want to pay my respects to the new Speaker of this house. On behalf of our party I wish him every success during his term of office. I am sure I speak for every honourable senator when I say that I am delighted that he has been appointed Speaker of the Senate.

**Some Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear.

**Hon. Mr. Haig:** I wish to congratulate the mover (Hon. Mr. Godbout) and the seconder (Hon. Mr. Petten) of the motion, for the splendid speeches they made yesterday. I admit that I could not understand the first part of the mover's address because it was in French, but I have read the translation and am pleased with the sentiment expressed. In paying my respects to the honourable senator from Newfoundland (Hon. Mr. Petten), I want to assure him that every member of this chamber is delighted that Newfoundland is now part of Canada.

**Some Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear.

**Hon. Mr. Haig:** There may be some who will say that we are making a costly experiment. By and large, the first part of the honourable gentleman's speech illustrated the difficulties that we face in dealing with that problem. However, the second part of his speech was so encouraging, not only as to the natural resources of our great new province but as to the kind of people who live in it, that I have no fear for the future of Canada by reason of Newfoundland's being part of it.

I wish to make an unusual salutation to the leader of the government in this house (Hon. Mr. Robertson). During five sessions now I have been his opposite member here. He may have his shortcomings—I know that I have mine, and I suppose we all have some—but my association with him while helping him to direct the proceedings of the Senate has been for me a most delightful experience. I take this opportunity of paying him my very highest respects.

**Some Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear.

**Hon. Mr. Haig:** I should also like to say a world of welcome to the new members, those who came here for the first time at the opening of this session. We who have been here before you want you to feel that we are all part of one body. It may interest you to know that this house changes its members