

THE SENATE

Tuesday, January 30, 1962

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

Prayers.

DOCUMENTS TABLED

Hon. Walter M. Aseltine tabled:

Report of the Department of Fisheries for the year ended December 31, 1960, and the financial statements of the department for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1961, pursuant to section 8 of the Department of Fisheries Act, chapter 69, R.S.C. 1952. (English text).

Report on the Operations of the Municipal Improvements Assistance Act for the year ended December 31, 1961, pursuant to section 11 of the said act, chapter 183, R.S.C. 1952. (English text).

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

MOTION FOR ADDRESS IN REPLY—DEBATE CONTINUED

The Senate resumed from Thursday, January 25, consideration of His Excellency the Governor General's speech at the opening of the session, and the motion of Hon. Mr. Méthot, seconded by Hon. Mr. Hollett, for an address in reply thereto.

Hon. Walter M. Aseltine: Honourable senators, here we are once more at the beginning of a new session, one which many people say will likely be the last before the next general election.

Hon. Mr. Macdonald (Brantford): You may speak for yourself.

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: First of all, I desire to extend my sincere greetings to all honourable senators on both sides of the chamber, to the honourable Leader of the Opposition (Hon. Mr. Macdonald), and, of course, to His Honour our distinguished and affable Speaker. I wish each and every one of you good health, happiness and prosperity. May all your worries be for naught, and may 1962 be the best year ever.

Hon. Mr. Crerar: Any chance of an increase in the indemnity?

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: We shall have quite a heavy program of legislation to deal with, and I feel that all honourable senators are anxious to get down to work and dispose of it with your usual dispatch and good will.

As in the past, I shall attempt to have as much Government legislation introduced first in the Senate as is possible under the circumstances.

If honourable senators have been following the proceedings in the other place, they will have noticed that there are nineteen items of legislation already on the Order Paper. Since practically all of these are money bills or money measures, I doubt very much if any of them could have been introduced in the Senate first. However, as I have said, I will endeavour to obtain as much legislation as possible.

Before proceeding with my remarks I wish to sincerely thank the mover (Hon. Mr. Méthot) and the seconder (Hon. Mr. Hollett) of the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, as well as the Leader of the Opposition (Hon. Mr. Macdonald), and the many other honourable senators and friends, who have so flatteringly congratulated me on my recent appointment as one of Her Majesty's Canadian Privy Councillors. It is a great honour which has been conferred upon me, and I wish all to know how highly I appreciate their very kind congratulations and good wishes.

Secondly, I would like to add a few words about the honourable gentleman who has recently been summoned here and sworn in as a senator. I refer to the Honourable Malcolm Hollett, B.A., M.A., (Oxon), of St. John's, Newfoundland. Before coming to this chamber he had a most distinguished career, having in 1915 won a Rhodes Scholarship. As you all know, on this side of the chamber we have another Rhodes Scholar from Newfoundland, in the person of the Honourable John Higgins. Senator Hollett enlisted in the Royal Newfoundland Regiment, served overseas, was wounded and spent two years in hospital in convalescence. He then attended Oxford University, where he received his two degrees and a diploma in economics. He is a mathematician. If he starts to quote figures, we shall have to listen very carefully because in all likelihood they will be correct. It has already been stated that Senator Hollett was a magistrate for a great number of years and that he was engaged in newspaper work. He was also Leader of the Opposition in the Newfoundland Legislature representing St. John's West. I compliment him on the very fine address he delivered when he seconded the motion for the adoption of an address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. I feel sure that he will take a prominent part in the work of the Senate and will be a most valuable acquisition.

Honourable senators, I wish at the same time to congratulate the mover of the address