

Honourable senators, I submit this to you not in a formal way, but as food for thought. If honourable members of the Divorce Committee like to sit on that committee, well and good, but if—and I say this without any offence—they desire to serve the state better by giving more time to the study of legislation that is put before us, then they have only one thing to do, and that is to insist that the Government of Canada take the steps necessary to have the Constitution amended so that jurisdiction over marriage and divorce will be transferred to the provinces to rank among the other civil rights. And who will say that marriage and divorce do not come under the heading of civil rights? They are civil rights; they are part of family rights and are so called in all civilized nations. I say that it was unfair at the time of the drawing up of the Constitution to give jurisdiction over marriage and divorce to the Parliament of Canada.

My contention is that a change should be made in the Constitution. I would point out that the Prime Minister said very recently that he intended to take steps to change the Constitution so that any amendments to it can be made by Parliament with the consent of the provinces. That is a matter of the foremost importance. With that change, if the provinces desire to establish divorce courts they will be in a position to do so, and everything will then be regular and *intra vires*.

Therefore, honourable colleagues, I hope that you will consider this matter in due course. I do not expect that a decision will be taken at once. It is a matter for discussion.

I am proud of being a member of the Senate, and I am proud to have you as my colleagues; I do want you to give your best possible effort for the good of our country. You will be able to do it with more ease, with more facility, and with more joy if jurisdiction over marriage and divorce is transferred to the jurisdiction of the provincial legislatures, where it should have been in the first place.

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, is it your pleasure to adopt this report?

Hon. Mr. Pouliot: On division.

Reported adopted, on division.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE

Hon. W. M. Aseltine, with leave of the Senate, moved:

That the Senators mentioned in the first Report of the Committee of Selection as having been chosen to serve on the Standing Committee on Divorce during the present Session, be and they are hereby appointed to form part of and constitute

the said Committee to inquire into and report upon such matters as may be referred to them from time to time.

Motion agreed to.

STANDING COMMITTEES

REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF SELECTION

Hon. Mr. White presented the second report of the Committee of Selection.

The Clerk Assistant (reading):

The Committee of Selection appointed to nominate senators to serve on the several Standing Committees for the present session, make their second report as follows:

Hon. Senators: Dispense.

For text of report see Appendix "A" to today's Hansard, pp. 13-14.

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, when shall this report be taken into consideration?

Hon. Mr. White: Next sitting.

THE GOVERNOR GENERAL

ADDRESSES AT INSTALLATION PRINTED IN SENATE RECORDS

Hon. W. M. Aseltine: Honourable senators, with leave of the Senate, I move, seconded by Honourable W. Ross Macdonald, Leader of the Opposition, as follows:

That the address of the Prime Minister, the Right Honourable John G. Diefenbaker, P.C., Q.C., at the Installation of Major-General Georges Philias Vanier, D.S.O., M.C., C.D., as Governor General of Canada on September 15, 1959, together with the reply of His Excellency the Governor General thereto, be printed as an appendix to the *Debates of the Senate* and to the *Minutes of the Proceedings of the Senate*, and form part of the permanent records of this house.

Hon. W. Ross Macdonald: Honourable senators, I am pleased to second this motion.

It had been the custom over the years to have the addresses delivered on similar occasions appear in the proceedings of both houses. When the Right Honourable Vincent Massey was inducted as Governor General, for some reason or other the addresses delivered at that time were not included in the proceedings of either house. I have not been able to go through all the record, but I do find that the addresses given when Lord Alexander was inducted appeared subsequently as part of the proceedings of both houses. I think it is a very good custom.

This year it was my privilege and that of a number of honourable senators to be present on the very impressive occasion when General Vanier was sworn in as Governor General. On that occasion two very fine addresses were delivered. To those