

THE SENATE

Tuesday, November 27, 1956

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

Prayers.

Routine proceedings.

LEGISLATION

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE

Hon. Mr. Hugessen, Acting Chairman of the Special Committee appointed to examine into any legislation or other matter which may be referred to it, presented the committee's first report.

The report was read by the Clerk Assistant as follows:

Your committee recommend that their quorum be reduced to nine members.

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

Hon. Mr. Hugessen: With leave, I move that the report be concurred in now.

The motion was agreed to.

PUBLIC BILLS

SUSPENSION OF RULES

Hon. Mr. Macdonald moved, pursuant to notice:

That during the present session of Parliament Rules 23, 24 and 63 be suspended in so far as they relate to public bills.

The motion was agreed to.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

MOTION FOR ADDRESS IN REPLY— DEBATE ADJOURNED

The Senate proceeded to consideration of His Excellency the Governor General's speech at the opening of the session.

Hon. William M. Wall moved:

That the following Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General of Canada:

To His Excellency the Right Honourable Vincent Massey, Member of the Order of the Companions of Honour, Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada. May it Please Your Excellency:

We, Her Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Senate of Canada, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to offer our humble thanks to Your Excellency for the gracious speech which Your Excellency has addressed to both houses of Parliament.

He said:

Honourable senators, may I be permitted to express my thanks to the Government and to the Leader of the Government in the

Senate (Hon. Mr. Macdonald) for the honour that has been accorded to me in inviting me to move the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, a privileged responsibility which I undertake for the first time.

Both houses of Parliament have been assembled for this special session "because of the serious international situation arising out of hostilities in the Middle East and the events in Hungary".

We meet at a time of aggravated tensions in the external relationships between nations and groups of nations. Democratic governmental leadership solemnly warns us that this is a period of near-crisis, which could well precipitate another world conflict. As we search for causative clues and for possible solutions, none of us is likely to minimize the gravity of the present situation, especially in the critical Middle East.

It is in this perspective that we must assess the widely-acclaimed leadership efforts of the Canadian Government to implement its belief that the permanent solution of Israel's relations with its neighbours—and the future of the Suez Canal—should be reached by peaceful negotiations under the aegis of the United Nations.

Events well known to you have moved swiftly and the United Nations General Assembly has accepted Mr. Pearson's original suggestion that the Secretary General make arrangements for a United Nations force to secure and to supervise cease-fire arrangements. This is a new and untried concept at the United Nations, demanding the working out of terms of reference for the United Nations force which would be acceptable and functional. This is no easy task, and it is at present being attempted by an Advisory Committee, of which Canada is a member.

It is hoped that this police force will contribute to peace in the area while a political settlement is being worked out, through the United Nations. To this end, it is hoped that the United Nations will consider the future of the Suez Canal and the future of Israel's relations with its neighbours.

The continued development and practical realization of this United Nations' intervention for peace in the Middle East will naturally demand sacrifices from all concerned; and I am convinced that the Canadian people will willingly meet these commitments, displaying the same calibre of thoughtful leadership and concern for peace which were demonstrated, in our name, when the Canadian delegation first advanced its proposals at the current session of the General Assembly.

Taking into consideration the inherent difficulties of accurately foretelling the exact extent and specificity of the demands which