

BUSINESS OF THE SENATE

Hon. W. Ross Macdonald: Honourable senators, I noticed in the press the other day a dispatch to the effect that the Minister of Justice intends to call a meeting with provincial representatives to discuss the Fauteux Committee report. I also noticed on the Orders of the Day of the other house that the Minister of Justice has a resolution which reads in part as follows:

Resolved, that it is expedient to introduce a measure to establish a board to be known as the National Parole Board—

Honourable senators, the reason I am asking this question is that I know there are quite a number of members of this house who are very much interested in that resolution and have been giving careful consideration to the Fauteux Committee report, with a view to discussing the bill for the setting up of the National Parole Board, when that bill comes to the Senate. Could the Leader of the Government (Hon. Mr. Aseltine) inform this house whether it is the intention of the Minister of Justice to proceed with the resolution that I have mentioned?

Also, in view of the optimistic statement by the honourable senator from Toronto-Trinity (Hon. Mr. Roebuck) as to the approaching end of the session, could the Leader of the Government give us some idea as to what further legislation we can expect before prorogation?

Hon. W. M. Aseltine: Honourable senators, the matter which has just been brought to the attention of the house by the Leader of the Opposition (Hon. Mr. Macdonald) is Order No. 17 on the Routine Proceedings and Orders of the Day in the other house. My honourable friend told me he was going to ask this question, so I am not surprised, but it was rather late in the day when he brought the matter up and I have not yet been able to get the answer.

Hon. Mr. Macdonald: Some notice is better than no notice at all.

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: I may be able to have the answer tomorrow.

With regard to the question as to what legislation we can expect to receive in this house between now and prorogation, I might say that besides Order No. 17, which has just been referred to, there are fourteen pieces of legislation mentioned in the Orders of the Day and which I understand it was stated yesterday are expected to be proceeded with. In addition to those fifteen measures, a statement was made yesterday by the Prime Minister to the effect that seven other pieces of legislation would be brought down: a Bill of Rights Act, a bill to amend the Broadcasting Act, legislation with respect to the

South Saskatchewan Dam, a bill to provide for the construction of a bridge in New Brunswick—I think at Campobello and connecting with Maine—a bill to amend the Customs Act, a bill to amend the Citizenship Act, and a bill respecting supply for 1957-58. So between now and prorogation 22 bills will probably come to this house for our consideration. I had expected that we would have certain legislation from the other house by this evening, namely, a bill to amend the excise tax, a bill with respect to the taxation of estates, a bill to amend the Customs Act, and a bill to amend the Income Tax Act, but very little progress has been made in the other house on these bills and it may be a day or two before we receive them. However, on Wednesday or Thursday we shall have an interim supply bill. That, honourable senators, is all of the information I have at the present time.

Hon. Mr. Pouliot: Merry Christmas!

Hon. Mr. Crerar: In view of the program of legislation which the honourable leader has outlined, may I ask if he can give the house any idea when prorogation may come?

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: I am betting on the 23rd day of August.

Hon. Mr. Bouffard: We would have to get the consent of the Senate to win that bet.

Hon. Mr. Euler: What sort of odds, Mr. Leader?

Hon. William M. Wall: Honourable senators, I wonder if I may ask the Government Leader a question arising out of what he has said about legislation still to come before the house, and which confirms press reports that it is the intention of the Government to bring forward legislation concerning a bill of rights. I have read some of the debates about the Bill of Rights, and I noticed in the Commons *Hansard* for 1955, at page 903, that the present Prime Minister asked at that time what serious objection there could be to the setting up each year of a joint committee of the House of Commons and the Senate to act as a kind of watchdog over civil and human rights. Can the Leader of the Government (Hon. Mr. Aseltine) tell us whether it is the intention of the Government now to set up a joint committee before proceeding with the introduction of the Bill of Rights, which is reported to be drafted and ready?

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: I have no information whatsoever other than what I have given to the house.

NEWFOUNDLAND FINANCES

ROYAL COMMISSION REPORT

Hon. G. Percival Burchill: Honourable senators, I would like to ask the honourable Leader of the Government (Hon. Mr.