

Bill H7, an Act for the relief of Manford York.

Bill I7, an Act for the relief of Robert Fisher.

Bill J7, an Act for the relief of James Alfred McCabe.

Bill K7, an Act for the relief of Dorothy Terry.

Bill L7, an Act for the relief of Lillie May Brown Nichols.

Bill M7, an Act for the relief of Hazel Pearl Clark Pearcy.

Bill N7, an Act for the relief of Edith Swartz.

Bill O7, an Act for the relief of James Gibb Erskine.

Bill P7, an Act for the relief of Ernest Johnson.

Bill Q7, an Act for the relief of May Elizabeth Chambers.

Bill R7, an Act for the relief of Maxime Demers.

Bill S7, an Act for the relief of James Edward Barnaby.

Bill T7, an Act for the relief of Ethel C. Craig-Williams.

Bill U7, an Act for the relief of Frederick George Jones.

Bill V7, an Act for the relief of Ida Lula Dupuis Murchison.

Bill W7, an Act for the relief of Gladys Andrea Boyle.

Bill X7, an Act for the relief of Leslie Ellis Noble.

Bill Y7, an Act for the relief of Joseph Azarie Handfield.

He said: Honourable gentlemen, I desire, with the leave of the House, to present this formal motion for the purpose of expediting our divorce proceedings. These Bills passed the Senate and were sent to the House of Commons. It has been learned by the officials of the Senate, after conference with officials of the other Chamber, that before the Bills can be released by the Commons it will be necessary for the Senate to send a formal message requesting that they be returned.

Hon. Mr. DANIEL: May I ask, is Parliament open or not?

Hon. Mr. POIRIER: Honourable gentlemen, I do not think that this procedure is quite in order. From time immemorial it has been customary to assert and guarantee our right by introducing a Bill pro forma. While we may have the privilege of making motions, no actual legislation is initiated before the King's representative has graciously delivered the Speech from the Throne. In my opinion the motion of my honourable friend is out of order.

The Hon. the SPEAKER: Do I understand that the honourable gentleman is asking for a ruling in this matter?

Hon. Mr. POIRIER: If the honourable gentleman (Hon. Mr. Willoughby) withdraws his motion there will be no necessity for a ruling. Otherwise we might have the point

Hon. Mr. WILLOUGHBY.

elucidated. I am not at the moment prepared to discuss it, but I know that a motion of that kind is not customary in England, nor has it been here for the forty-one years during which I have been in the Senate.

Hon. Mr. WILLOUGHBY: Honourable gentlemen, I am not prepared to discuss the point raised by the honourable gentleman. I bring in this motion with the approval of those who, I think, are conversant with the rules, and I rely upon the judgment of the House.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Do I understand the honourable gentleman raises a point of order?

Hon. Mr. POIRIER: I do raise it. Not for the sake of opposing my honourable friend's (Hon. Mr. Willoughby's) motion, but rather to clarify the situation, I would like to have the question settled whether, before dealing with the Speech from the Throne, we ought to initiate legislation other than a Bill pro forma, which asserts our right. For centuries it has been the practice, through courtesy, to initiate no legislation before the Speech from the Throne has been delivered.

The Hon. the SPEAKER: Honourable gentleman, I would explain that the proposed motion of the honourable gentleman from Moose Jaw (Hon. Mr. Willoughby) had not been brought to my attention, but, speaking off-hand, without having had time to study the whole question, I would say that there is nothing discourteous in what has been done, inasmuch as it is simply a formal matter as between the two Houses. We find ourselves in the position of requiring certain information from the House of Commons, and all that is proposed is to send a message asking that House to return certain documents. The motion is not a matter of legislation. No Bill has been introduced.

The motion was agreed to.

The Senate adjourned until to-morrow at 2.30 p.m.

THE SENATE

Friday, December 10, 1926.

The Senate met at 2.30 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

The Senate adjourned during pleasure.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

At three o'clock His Excellency the Governor General proceeded to the Senate Chamber