

4. The amendment to the Constitution to provide survivor benefits under the Canada Pension Plan.

5. The resolution for the adoption of a distinctive national flag.

6. The resolution for the approval of the Royal Union flag.

As well, the Senate adopted terms of reference for studies by five standing, special or joint committees: Aging, Consumer Credit, Tourist Traffic, the Estimates, and the Canada Pension Plan. On other occasions I have referred to the fine work done by members of these committees and their chairmen—and, indeed, their chairwoman. Finally, the Senate adopted 859 divorce resolutions which came to us from the Divorce Committee.

Without derogating from the value of the other work, I would refer especially to three public bills, all of them relatively non-contentious, but upon which the Senate exercised commendable influence. I believe that in every case these were public bills which were introduced here. They were: the Canada Shipping Act, the Harbour Commissions Act, and the Companies Act. These measures were all of great importance, and the study given them by the Senate and the improvements made here are more than could be expected from the other place.

I think it fair to say that the volume and quality of the work done by the Senate during the last session made it a session of real achievement. Perhaps my friend Senator Choquette—and his remarks would lead me to this conclusion—does not quite agree with that; but if he has followed me so far, for his further reading I would suggest that he peruse the Prorogation Speech delivered so early in the morning of the final day of the last session. There he will have further confirmation of the very large volume of work which Parliament discharged last session.

In the Senate at times we have experienced, as Senator Choquette has said, delays and frustrations that were not of our making. The session was the longest in the history of our Parliament. The unusual composition of the other place and the very slow progress made on much of its legislation made the meetings of this body rather precarious. We adjourned often, sometimes not knowing when we would be able to resume our work, but the judgment and forbearance exercised by the Senate was helpful, and, in addition to that, we had some good luck. I should like to pay high tribute to the co-operation and the sense of responsibility shown by all

members of the Senate from all parts of this house. The attendance here during the last session was seldom below 65 per cent. This speaks highly for the attention given by senators to their duties here.

If I may, I should like to thank the Leader of the Opposition, Senator Brooks, for the co-operation and helpful understanding he displayed. I am sorry he is not here this evening, but, as we know, he has not yet returned from Europe where he has been attending the Executive Meeting of the Interparliamentary Union. That body was preparing for the meeting of the Interparliamentary Union which will be held in Ottawa in September. Without the attitude and approach which Senator Brooks showed, we should not have had as productive a year. He understands the purpose of a second chamber, and he performs in its highest tradition.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Connolly (Ottawa West): Honourable senators, the Speech from the Throne contains the sentence:

Our country is achieving a high rate of economic growth.

Senator Choquette will say this is an inheritance from a great Government. Since that statement was made, Parliament has had an opportunity to examine the Economic Review for 1964. That document contains a statistical report on the operation of the Canadian economy last year. The Gross National Product advanced by almost 9 per cent. This is the largest year-to-year gain since 1956. The value of our GNP in 1964 was over \$47 billion, as against \$44.6 billion in 1963. This rate of growth is encouraging in itself. It is also encouraging in comparison with the rate experienced in other western countries.

In addition, the budget accounts are now in virtual balance, and for the first time since 1957-58. The deficit for the fiscal year just passed was announced at \$83 million. The surplus in the Old Age Pension account, which would reduce this considerably, was \$64 million. These are figures that are on the record.

In 1964 the labour force increased by over 108,000, but the number of employed rose by 230,000. As a result, the average of unemployment as a percentage of the labour force in the year 1964 was 4.7 per cent. This is a gratifying improvement. It continues the year-to-year improvement we have been experiencing since the high average of unem-