

## THE SENATE

Tuesday, November 29, 1960

The Senate met at 8 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers.

## NATIONAL HOUSING ACT

BILL TO AMEND—FIRST READING

**The Hon. the Speaker** informed the Senate that a message had been received from the House of Commons with Bill C-42, to amend the National Housing Act, 1954.

Bill read first time.

**The Hon. the Speaker:** Honourable senators when shall this bill be read the second time?

**Hon. Walter M. Aseltine:** Honourable senators, this is a measure to provide for employment. For that reason, there is great urgency in having the bill dealt with by the Senate as expeditiously as possible. The honourable senator from Saskatoon (Hon. Mr. Hnatyshyn), who is sponsoring the bill, is ready to explain it this evening. It is proposed that as soon as the bill has been given second reading it be sent to the Banking and Commerce Committee, where it will receive full and complete study. I would therefore like to obtain unanimous consent of honourable senators to have second reading moved this evening, so that debate may be commenced and the bill not be delayed any longer than necessary. I hope it will go to the Banking and Commerce Committee, if that is the committee to which it will be referred, sometime tomorrow afternoon or evening, or perhaps on Thursday morning.

While I am on my feet, I would like to suggest that Government legislation appear on the Orders of the Day ahead of other business, on account of the fact that Christmas is approaching rapidly and quite a lot of legislation will be coming to the Senate before then.

I repeat, honourable senators, that I would like to obtain unanimous consent of the Senate to start this evening the debate on second reading of the bill before us.

**Hon. W. Ross Macdonald:** Honourable senators, as far as I personally am concerned I have no objection to debate being started this evening on second reading of this bill. In fact, I am very anxious that it should be done. The honourable Leader of the Government (Hon. Mr. Aseltine) has intimated that he has no objection to the bill being referred to a committee. If he had not made

the suggestion that the bill be sent to a committee I would have made it. However, I cannot see how the bill can get to committee before Thursday. It may be that some organizations or individuals may wish to come and give evidence before the committee and I think we should let it be known now that the bill will probably be sent to committee for consideration on Thursday. That would be some intimation to any people who wish to appear that they would be heard at that time.

**Hon. Thomas Reid:** May I ask the honourable Leader of the Government (Hon. Mr. Aseltine) if there is any likelihood of a bill being brought forward in regard to the railway strike? If so, I imagine that bill would be given precedence.

**Hon. Mr. Aseltine:** I understand that at 5 o'clock this afternoon the Prime Minister made an announcement in the other place which apparently met with the approval of everyone, and that a bill such as the one suggested by the honourable senator from New Westminster (Hon. Mr. Reid) will be introduced, but I am not sure whether or not that will be tonight. It will likely come to us presently, and it is very likely that royal assent will be necessary before the end of the week.

## MOTION FOR SECOND READING

**Hon. John Hnatyshyn** moved the second reading of Bill C-42, to amend the National Housing Act, 1954.

He said: Honourable senators, I am grateful to the members of this chamber for allowing the motion for second reading of this bill to be made tonight, because I think there is a certain amount of urgency for passage of the bill and I know that a number of senators wish to speak in connection with it. I also feel that it should go afterwards to the Standing Committee on Banking and Commerce, as some of the amendments may seem complicated and can be better dealt with in that committee.

As honourable senators will remember, last spring I had the honour to move the second reading of Bill C-53, which was an Act to amend the National Housing Act. You will recall that at that time I presented a fairly comprehensive review of developments in the housing field since 1957, with particular emphasis on accomplishments in the year 1959. Those were good years and, in general, it could be said that the amount of housing constructed during the period was restricted only by the availability of mortgage money and that the Government took active steps to resolve this problem by a vigorous, direct lending policy through Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation. Since 1957 some 500,00