

THE SENATE

Monday, March 27, 1950

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

Prayers and routine proceedings.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS BILL

FIRST READING

A message was received from the House of Commons with Bill 16, an Act to amend the Agricultural Products Act.

The bill was read the first time.

DIVORCE PETITIONS

NUMBER PRESENTED TO PARLIAMENT

Hon. Mr. Aseltine, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Divorce, presented certain petitions for divorce.

He said: For the information of honourable senators, the total number of divorce petitions presented, including those now being filed, is 274.

SUSPENSION OF RULES

NOTICE OF MOTION

Hon. Mr. Hugessen: On behalf of the leader of the government (Hon. Mr. Robertson) I give notice of intention to move on Wednesday next:

That for the balance of the present month Rules 23, 24 and 63 be suspended in so far as they relate to public bills.

Hon. Mr. Haig: May I ask if that indicates that we shall adjourn on Friday night?

Hon. Mr. Hugessen: I have every hope that we shall.

Hon. Mr. Farris: "Hope deferred maketh the heart sick."

HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

WITHDRAWAL OF MEMBER FROM COMMITTEE

Hon. Mrs. Fallis: Before the Orders of the Day are called, I rise to a question of privilege. It has to do with a speech which was delivered in this house on Monday night of last week. I realize that I should have brought up the question immediately afterwards, but the honourable senator who delivered the address has not been in the house since, until this evening, and in his absence I would not raise the question. I refer to the speech which was delivered by the honourable senator for Toronto-Trinity

(Hon. Mr. Roebuck) in speaking to his motion to set up a committee on human rights and fundamental freedoms.

As a former member of the joint committee of both houses on this question of human rights and fundamental freedoms, naturally I have been very much interested in it, and when the honourable senator introduced his resolution last year I was one of those who spoke in support of it. At the beginning of this session, when he introduced it again, he asked me if I would act on the committee which he was naming, and I said that I should be very happy to do so. I regret that I have to withdraw my name from that committee because of one or two paragraphs in the honourable senator's speech of last Monday night.

The honourable senator made a good speech, as he always does, and when he took his seat I said so to him; but I must confess that there were a few minutes during the early part of his address when my attention was focussed on something else and I did not get the implication of what he was saying. When I saw it in *Hansard* I read it two or three times before I could believe that it was really there; and I then decided that in view of the attitude of the honourable senator in proposing the setting-up of the committee it would not be possible for me to act upon it. I do not know that it is necessary for me to read to honourable senators the part to which I am taking objection; if any honourable members are interested they will find it on page 97, in the second column.

Hon. Mr. Roebuck: I think the honourable senator had better read the reference.

Hon. Mrs. Fallis: The honourable senator said this:

I of course fully realize that honourable senators, and many people outside this chamber, may wonder why I take so keen an interest in this subject. If I may be permitted, I shall endeavour to tell you the reason for my interest. I am a Liberal. The first principle of Liberalism is respect for the rights of the individual. The dangers which the world is facing today flow from two opposite sources: privilege, as promoted by those on the right, and socialistic worship of the state to the utter disregard of the rights of the individual, as promoted by those on the left. Old-time Tory privilege, with its assumptions of superiority by some over the mass of mankind, with its landlordism, its claim to ownership of the gifts of nature, its denial of equality, both economical and political, is bad enough . . .

Not was bad enough, but is bad enough.

. . . God knows; but I doubt whether this side of the story is as bad as the other side. This attitude of privilege has cursed the world with tyranny, oppression, untold poverty, cruelty, and woe . . .

Honourable senators, if those words had been used in the course of a controversial