

THE SENATE

Thursday, December 4, 1952

The Senate met at 3 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

PRISONS AND REFORMATORIES BILL

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

Hon. Mr. Gershaw presented the report of the Standing Committee on Public Health and Welfare on Bill G, an Act to amend the Prisons and Reformatories Act.

The report was read by the Clerk Assistant as follows:

The Standing Committee on Public Health and Welfare, to whom was referred Bill G, an Act to amend the Prisons and Reformatories Act, have in obedience to the order of reference of December 1, 1952, examined the said bill and now beg leave to report the same without any amendment.

THIRD READING

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

Hon. Mr. Robertson: With leave of the Senate, I move the third reading now.

The motion was agreed to, and the bill was read the third time, and passed.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

ADDRESS IN REPLY

The Senate resumed from Tuesday, December 2, the consideration of His Excellency the Governor General's Speech at the opening of the session, and the motion of Hon. Mr. Vaillancourt for an address in reply thereto.

Hon. Wishart McL. Robertson: Honourable senators, may I at once, as Mr. King used to say, join with the honourable leader opposite in his felicitations regarding the coming Coronation of Her Majesty the Queen. I need hardly say that in his remarks he voiced the viewpoint held by all loyal and admiring subjects of Her Majesty, not only within the commonwealth but throughout the free world as well.

May I also join with the honourable leader opposite in his complimentary remarks to the mover and the seconder of the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne? I subscribe heartily to what he said. The speech of the mover, he said, reflected a great deal of research, careful thought, wide experience and many other qualities which are valuable in dealing with the problems

which Canada today faces. I was intrigued with the remark of the honourable leader when he said that the speech of the seconder was one which might more properly have been made in another forum than the Senate—I believe he suggested the House of Commons—and by a member who was about to seek re-election.

My recollection of the speech made it difficult for me to accept that viewpoint, so I took the precaution in the interim of re-reading what had been said. In my opinion, in order to appreciate its importance in a house such as our own, something should be added by way of background. The seconder is one of the leading business men of Eastern Canada, a man who was born with no silver spoon in his mouth, but who, like so many other successful Canadians, inherited a good name and a great will to work. Through diligence and industry he developed one of Eastern Canada's outstanding businesses in foreign products. He accomplished this by exceptional mastery of detail and, above all, by careful financing. I suppose that he budgeted much as the government of Canada does. Sometimes he was confronted with an unexpected surplus, sometimes with an unforeseen deficit. But it is my guess that when he found himself with an unexpected surplus he did not fritter it away, but used it in paying off existing obligations, if he had any, or deposited it in the bank against a rainy day. In addition to business-building and financing he had to attend to the selling part of the job, in which from time to time he met with some successes and some sizeable reverses. Having for many years disposed of his products mainly in the British market, he suddenly found that market gone. But there was no moaning or groaning: he proceeded at once to adapt himself to the changed circumstances, built another plant to produce products for the American and upper Canadian markets, and met with great success. In due course the Prime Minister invited him to accept an appointment to the Senate, and it was my privilege, as a fellow Nova Scotian, to ask him to second the motion for the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. It seems to me wholly natural that a man with the background I have sketched should stress the features which, to his mind, characterize the government of the day, namely sound, safe financing, and the use of unexpected surpluses to reduce the public debt. While private industry does not expect a government to find markets, it appreciates governmental help in securing them.

The honourable senator pointed out that, apart from the fact that careful financing pays