

THE SENATE

Thursday, November 24, 1960

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

Prayers.

DOCUMENT TABLED

Hon. Walter M. Aseltien tabled:

Annual Report of the Commissioner of Penitentiaries for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1960, pursuant to section 14 of the Penitentiary Act, Chapter 206, R.S. 1952. (English text).

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: Honourable senators, I move, with leave, that when the Senate adjourns today it stand adjourned until Tuesday next, November 29, 1960, at 8 o'clock in the evening.

Motion agreed to.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

MOTION FOR ADDRESS IN REPLY—
DEBATE CONTINUED

The Senate resumed from yesterday consideration of His Excellency the Governor General's speech at the opening of the session, and the motion of Hon. Mr. Brooks, seconded by Hon. Mr. Beaubien (Bedford), for an address in reply thereto.

Hon. Walter M. Aseltine: Honourable senators, my first word will be one of greeting to all my many friends whom I see on both sides of this chamber. I am glad to note that they all appear to be in excellent health, full of vim, vigour and vitality, and no doubt they are ready, able and willing to get down to the work of dealing with the big program that is before us and to do their usual good job.

I am particularly pleased to see our genial Speaker, the Honourable Mark Robert Drouin, back in his place, and I hope he will continue to forgive us when at times we fail to do the right and proper thing. I know I myself am one of the delinquents and I owe him quite a few bows to date.

I am also pleased to see the honourable senator from Banff (Hon. Mr. Cameron) back in his place. Last session he suffered a very severe illness and we missed him very much, particularly during the latter part of the session.

I greatly regret that, as was stated yesterday by the honourable Leader of the Opposition (Hon. Mr. Macdonald), the honourable

senator from Rockcliffe (Hon. Mrs. Wilson) will not be with us for some time, on account of having undergone a serious operation.

I was grieved to learn through a newspaper article that one of our representatives at the United Nations, the Honourable Senator Robertson, had a fall—I do not know if it was "on the sidewalks of New York" or not. He badly sprained an ankle and tore certain ligaments. I extend to him my best wishes for a speedy recovery. He is a very competent person, one of our most important representatives at the United Nations at the present time.

Now, honourable senators, my next word will be one of welcome to the three persons who have recently been summoned to this chamber, and with your permission I will allude briefly to them in the order in which they were sworn in. As was stated yesterday by the honourable senator from Royal, Alfred Johnson Brooks, I have been personally acquainted with him for more than 25 years. I have always appreciated his goodwill and friendship. Like many of us, he was born on a farm. He claims that he was fortunate in being born on a farm in New Brunswick. He was educated at the University of New Brunswick and, after graduation, he took a course at the Normal School and taught school for a while, later becoming an inspector of schools. Subsequently he took up law, but that was not until he came back from the war. The honourable senator from Royal had a most distinguished military career. He served overseas from 1915 to 1919, as a Major in the 26th Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force. He was Lieutenant-Colonel Commanding the New Brunswick Rangers from 1926 to 1930; Officer Commanding the 16th Infantry Brigade from 1930 to 1933; Colonel Commanding No. 70 C.A. (B) T.C., Fredericton, from 1940 to 1943; Commander of the Transit Camp at Windsor, Nova Scotia, from 1943 to 1944; and he was overseas twice in World War II. Of course, I do not need to mention the fact that the honourable senator was a member of the New Brunswick Legislature for two terms, and was elected to the House of Commons in 1935, where he sat for 25 years, becoming a Privy Councillor and Minister of Veterans Affairs in 1957. However, I do want to say that he has always been a keen supporter of amateur sport. He played baseball, football and basketball; he ran in track sports, and he is a keen golfer. He is very much interested in that part of the Speech from the Throne which has to do with the Canadian Government taking an interest in amateur athletics.

Next I want to say a word about the honourable lady from Quebec City, electoral division of Victoria, who has recently been