

Hon. Mr. BELCOURT: I think the third reading ought to be postponed until next week. I want to look up the discussion of last year.

Hon. Mr. McMEANS: It is very important that this Bill reach the House of Commons as soon as possible and receive their assent. That would relieve the Senate of a great deal of unnecessary work. It is very desirable that we should know as soon as possible what is going to be the fate of the Bill. If it is to pass, there are a great many applications that would go to the court in Ontario instead of coming here.

Hon. Mr. BELCOURT: To my mind that is an argument against the third reading. The fact that this would increase divorce is a reason why I would object to the third reading, even if I had no other reason.

Hon. Mr. McMEANS: The honourable gentleman has, no doubt, very potent reasons, though I fail to see them myself.

Hon. Mr. WILLOUGHBY: If I may say another word—I do not think that anybody would consider the honourable member for Ottawa (Hon. Mr. Belcourt) as consenting to anything if this Bill were given its third reading to-morrow. It is exactly the same Bill as we passed last year.

Hon. Mr. BELCOURT: But, for my part, I want to look up the discussion of last year. My honourable friend seems to think this is a Bill that may be treated lightly.

Hon. Mr. WILLOUGHBY: Not at all.

Hon. Mr. BELCOURT: It is a very serious matter.

Hon. Mr. WILLOUGHBY: I realize the gravity of it.

Hon. Mr. BELCOURT: A most important Bill, I think.

Hon. Mr. WILLOUGHBY: Well, if there is any objection I will not press it. I want to meet every reasonable objection. I am only anxious that the Bill should reach the other House as quickly as possible, but I will not press anything against the wishes of any member of this House.

The Hon. the SPEAKER: The honourable gentleman moves, then, that the Bill be put down for third reading on Tuesday next?

Hon. Mr. WILLOUGHBY: Yes.

The motion was agreed to.

THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SPEECH ADDRESS IN REPLY

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. Little for an Address in reply thereto.

Right Hon. Sir GEORGE E. FOSTER: Honourable gentlemen, it is not my intention to take up a very lengthy period of the time of this Chamber. I have been pleased to see the interest which has been taken in the discussion upon this resolution so far. I have thought more than once since becoming a member of the Senate that perhaps as a Senate we were not taking full advantage of an excellent opportunity, and not contributing all that we might well be asked to contribute, in passing the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne without a full discussion. The opportunity is one which occurs only once in the Session of this Chamber. It is an opportunity for a general discussion and a contribution of the criticism and suggestion which may well be expected from a body constituted as this is.

The Speech from the Throne is supposed to contain a brief summary of the important results of the past year from the policies of the Government, and especially to outline in a general way the Government's policy and plan for the Session just opening and the work of the administration for the future. I have an idea that the capacity and capabilities of a Chamber like this are particularly resourceful for a contribution of service to the Government and Parliament and that the opinions and suggestions of this body on matters of public interest may give the country a lead. We have in this Chamber some ninety members, drawn from all parts of the Dominion, representing almost every section. We have as constituents of this Chamber men of large experience and long experience in almost all the activities of our country. We have on the constitutional and legal side men of first-class ability, equal to any in the Dominion, learned in the law and well experienced in the practice of the law; we have captains of industry and promoters of industrial activities, among the best in Canada; we have in this Chamber, besides, distinguished representatives of most of the other professions, and especially we are cognizant of the fact that as regards administrative affairs, municipal, provincial and Dominion, we have here a large number of gentlemen who have had varied, wide and long experience in these