

Friday, 31st July, 1931.

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to the recommendation contained in the Fourth Report of the Select Special Committee appointed to investigate the Beauharnois Power Project and which was concurred in by the House of Commons on Friday the 31st instant, I beg to transmit a copy of the said Report herewith.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Yours respectfully,

George Black,

Speaker of the House of Commons.

The Honourable P. E. Blondin,
Speaker of the Senate,
The Senate, Ottawa.

Hon. Mr. WILLOUGHBY: I beg to move that the communication received from the Speaker of the House of Commons be taken into consideration at 2.30 this afternoon.

The motion was agreed to.

STATUES ON PARLIAMENT HILL

Hon. JOHN LEWIS: Honourable senators, perhaps I may be allowed to make a few remarks that should have been made yesterday when the question of monuments on Parliament Hill was discussed. I hope that honourable gentlemen from Nova Scotia who are advocating the erection of a statue to Sir Charles Tupper will not forget Joseph Howe, one of the Fathers of Confederation, who was a son of that province.

Hon. Mr. McCORMICK: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. LEWIS: He is still held in affectionate memory by the people down there.

At one o'clock the Senate took recess.

The Senate resumed at 2.30 p.m.

THE BEAUHARNOIS PROJECT

RESOLUTION

The Senate proceeded to consider a message from the Hon. the Speaker of the House of Commons to the Hon. the Speaker of the Senate, transmitting the Fourth Report of the Select Committee of the House of Commons appointed to investigate the Beauharnois Power Project.

Hon. W. B. WILLOUGHBY: Honourable members, the day before yesterday the honourable the leader of the Opposition (Hon. Mr. Dandurand) was good enough to nominate three senators, and I nominated three others, to serve on a committee appointed to deal with certain honourable members of this House. That committee gave

considerable attention to the matter, and its deliberations have resulted in the resolution that I now have the honour of moving, seconded by the leader of the Opposition, which reads as follows:

Whereas on the 31st day of July of this year the House of Commons adopted the final report, dated July 28, 1931, of a special committee appointed by it to investigate the Beauharnois Power Project:

And whereas a copy of the said report has, by order of the House of Commons, been transmitted to the Senate for its information:

And whereas this honourable House has been deeply perturbed by the condemnation levelled by the said report against certain senators and is keenly conscious of its duty to act in the matter, fully and without delay:

And whereas imminent prorogation precludes immediate action by the Senate, as it is the constitutional right of a senator to be heard by his colleagues in his own defence before any punitive or other action be taken:

And whereas the constitution does not permit of effective penalties being applied to the senators implicated should they fail to justify themselves, as under the British North America Act a member of the Senate may be disqualified from sitting in Parliament only upon one of the following grounds:—

(a) lack of property qualification;

(b) failure to reside in the province which he represents;

(c) bankruptcy;

(d) conviction of treason, felony or any infamous crime.

Therefore be it resolved that in the opinion of this House:

(1) A special committee of the Senate should be appointed within the first week of the next session of Parliament to deal with the conduct and actions of the senators above referred to, as set out in the said report;

(2) The Parliament of Canada at its next session should so amend the Independence of Parliament Act as to provide effective penalties against any member who may be found guilty of dishonourable conduct.

The resolution was agreed to.

BUSINESS OF THE SENATE

Hon. Mr. WILLOUGHBY: As there is no more business before us at the moment, I can only suggest that we adjourn, to meet at the call of the Chair. It is possible that something will come over from the other House this afternoon.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Can my honourable friend indicate approximately the hour at which we are likely to be called together again?

Hon. Mr. WILLOUGHBY: I am sorry to say that, convenient as it would be, it is impossible to predict the hour when we shall have something to do. At lunch time I met a member of the House of Commons who told me that the two Beauharnois Bills had received the second reading—I am only repeat-