

BUSINESS OF THE SENATE

ADJOURNMENT

Senator Petten: Honourable senators, with leave of the Senate and notwithstanding rule 45(1)(g), I move that when the Senate adjourns today it do stand adjourned until Tuesday, October 17, 1978, at 8 o'clock in the evening.

Honourable senators, before the question is put, I should like to give a short summary of the business of the Senate for next week.

When we return on Tuesday evening we shall proceed with the Throne Speech debate. I understand that the Honourable Senator Flynn and the Honourable Senator Perrault are scheduled to speak on Tuesday next.

Senator Flynn: A great night!

Senator Petten: It is expected that we shall be able to hold a meeting of the Committee of Selection on Wednesday or, at the latest, Thursday, of next week, to nominate senators to serve on the several select committees of the Senate during the present session.

Motion agreed to.

● (1410)

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

MOTION FOR ADDRESS IN REPLY—DEBATE ADJOURNED

The Senate proceeded to consideration of His Excellency the Governor General's Speech at the opening of the session.

[*Translation*]

Hon. Pietro Rizzuto moved, seconded by Hon. Florence B. Bird:

That the following Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General of Canada:

To His Excellency the Right Honourable Jules Léger, Chancellor and Principal Companion of the Order of Canada, Chancellor and Commander of the Order of Military Merit, holder of the Canadian Armed Forces decoration, Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada.

May it please Your Excellency:

We, Her Majesty's most loyal and dutiful subjects, the Senate of Canada, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to offer our humble thanks to Your Excellency for the gracious Speech which Your Excellency has addressed to both Houses of Parliament.

He said: Honourable senators, first I would like to pay a tribute to the Honourable Senator Renaude Lapointe, our distinguished Speaker.

Allow me to congratulate her for her excellent work in this house and for her special way of preserving order with her usual charm and kindness.

[*English*]

I also wish to compliment our leader for the laborious work he performs. I am grateful and thank him for the confidence

he has bestowed upon me by permitting me to move this motion for an Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne.
[*Translation*]

Though I have been given, on several occasions, the opportunity to address this house, I can assure you that the honour bestowed upon me today is a source of very great satisfaction and considerable emotions.

I am very happy to see that our government is getting set to take the steps necessary to make our social policies more stringent while increasing our help to those who are in real need of it. It will also endeavour to change our laws in order to fight the abuses we have witnessed in the last few years.

We are all conscious of the fact that our government has made a real effort to help the needy, but we have also been aware that in so doing, in trying to improve the social conditions of the people, we have created a situation in which abuses on every hand are increasing constantly. Now, to remedy the situation, the government must take adequate steps, but these will be efficient only with the cooperation of each and every one.

When I say that the people as a whole must cooperate, I think mainly of businessmen and industrialists who must assume their responsibilities and face the future of our society, and not limit themselves to producing more and more to increase their profits. The same goes for union leaders who, while keeping in mind the interests of our workers, must take into consideration our productivity as well as salary increases.

And so balance would be maintained, the requirements of the marketplace would be met, our goods exported abroad, our natural resources developed while ensuring work to all Canadians, including the young people who must enter the labour market.

I am happy to see that the constitutional changes will be discussed in the weeks to come. We know now, honourable senators, that if the question were put to the people the great majority of them would be in favour of those changes. But when it comes to the division of powers differences arise.

We all have demands, and sometimes very difficult demands to meet. I think we should act with wisdom and moderation so that every individual, every province and every government will be able to protect their rights adequately by taking into consideration all citizens in all areas. I think that is the approach to be taken if we really want to arrive at valid and long term solutions. Otherwise, certain groups would be favoured to the detriment of others and there is a great risk that today's solutions will become tomorrow's problems.

Yes, honourable senators, we have to be proud of our country. We have to be proud of the fact that despite our present problems we can still find in our country social peace, democracy and freedom. So, to preserve that climate of peace and freedom, we have to make sacrifices, we have to make the workers and the leaders of our country aware of the importance of preserving that social peace which is the apportion of justice and understanding. There is no wealth comparable to tranquility, serenity and harmony.