

The sitting of the Senate was resumed.

RAILWAYS BILL

FIRST READING

Hon. Leopold Langlois presented Bill S-1, relating to railways.

Bill read first time.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

CONSIDERATION LATER THIS DAY

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, I have the honour to inform you that His Excellency has caused to be placed in my hands a copy of his speech delivered this day from the Throne to the two Houses of Parliament. It is as follows:

Hon. Senators: Dispense.

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, when shall this speech be taken into consideration?

Hon. Leopold Langlois moved, with leave, seconded by Hon. Arthur W. Roebuck:

That the speech of His Excellency the Governor General delivered this day from the Throne to the two Houses of Parliament be taken into consideration later this day.

Motion agreed to.

COMMITTEE ON ORDERS AND CUSTOMS

APPOINTMENT

Hon. Leopold Langlois moved, with leave, seconded by Hon. Arthur W. Roebuck:

That all the senators present during this session be appointed a committee to consider the Orders and Customs of the Senate and Privileges of Parliament, and that the said committee have leave to meet in the Senate Chamber when and as often as they please.

Motion agreed to.

The Senate adjourned until 2 p.m.

SECOND SITTING

The Senate met at 2 p.m. the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers.

LIBRARY OF PARLIAMENT

REPORT OF LIBRARIAN TABLED

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, I have the honour to present to the

Senate the report of the Parliamentary Librarian for the Second Session of the Twenty-eighth Parliament, 1969.

Ordered: That the report do lie on the Table.

SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETATION

FACILITIES IN SENATE CHAMBER

Hon. David A. Croll: Before commencing the business of the Senate this afternoon, I should like to raise a question of personal privilege, but one which actually concerns every member of the house. Last evening when the Chief Justice of Canada delivered the Prorogation Speech we did not have any interpretation for two-thirds of his speech. Today there was no interpretation at all when the Governor General read the Speech from the Throne.

I took this matter up with the Clerk yesterday, the day before and at various times last year. These facilities are provided in the House of Commons and are available to us. This morning there was no sitting of the House of Commons because the members were all here, yet there were no facilities available to us in this chamber.

I do not raise the matter in any critical way, but I think the Senate should give a direction. We have the equipment, and we ought to use it, particularly when we ask others to participate in both languages. We may have very much more need for it. For example, one of the speakers this afternoon, I understand, will be speaking mostly in French. It is not fair to him or to us that there should be no interpretation. In any event, the equipment is here and we ought to make sure that the interpreters are available.

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, perhaps I can reply to the honourable Senator Croll's question of privilege. On many occasions during the last session I have had complaints regarding the interpretation system and facilities. I am very happy that this matter has been raised today, at the beginning of a new session. It shows the interest of honourable senators in this system and in its usefulness.

I was advised of the fact that interpretation was not available for the sitting yesterday and again this morning. I assure all honourable senators that we will get together all the persons in authority at the level of administration of the Senate to ensure that the system works more satisfactorily in the future. This