

THE SENATE

Thursday, November 29, 1956

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

Prayers.

Routine proceedings.

EMERGENCY SITTINGS

AUTHORITY TO CONVENE SENATE
DURING ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Mr. Macdonald moved, pursuant to notice:

That for the duration of the present session of Parliament, should any emergency arise during any adjournment of the Senate, which would in the opinion of the Honourable the Speaker warrant that the Senate meet prior to the time set forth in the motion for such adjournment, the Honourable the Speaker be authorized to notify honourable senators at their addresses registered with the Clerk of the Senate, to meet at a time earlier than that set out in the motion for such adjournment, and non-receipt by any one or more honourable senators of such call shall not have any effect upon the sufficiency and validity thereof.

The motion was agreed to.

HON. MRS. JODOIN

BIRTHDAY FELICITATIONS

On the Orders of the Day:

Hon. F. Elsie Inman: Honourable senators, I am not going to speak about the international situation. I am going to speak about a happier occasion. I wish to offer congratulations to a most gracious and charming member of this chamber, the honourable senator from Sorel (Hon. Mrs. Jodoin), who is celebrating her birthday today. I wish to extend to her many happy returns of the day and best wishes for the years to come.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mariana B. Jodoin: Honourable senators, thank you very much. I am very pleased to be a member of the Senate and I look forward to many happy years in this chamber.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

ADDRESS IN REPLY ADOPTED

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. Wall, seconded by Hon. Mr. Fournier, for an Address in reply thereto.

Hon. Arthur W. Roebuck: Honourable senators,—

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear,

Hon. Mr. Roebuck: May I commence my remarks this afternoon by following what has become a tradition, in both this house and the House of Commons, that is, by tendering my congratulations to the mover and the seconder of the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. In this instance, I do so not as a mere matter of form, but rather because of the genuine admiration I feel for the statesmanlike moderation, expressed in classical English, of the mover of the Address (Hon. Mr. Wall), and as well the marvellous eloquence and fluency of the seconder (Hon. Mr. Fournier).

I feel that little would be gained if I attempted to repeat the sentiments expressed in preceding speeches with which I agree. In this debate it is impossible to deal fully with the present international situation, but I wish to submit some thoughts in connection with it which I think are worthy of consideration.

May I commence with a broad general observation, that is to say, that in international affairs the leaders of the nations require both enterprise and courage—enterprise to formulate sound policies and courage to carry them out. I submit with all due deference to those who may disagree, that the members of Her Majesty's Government at Westminster exhibited an enterprise which is remarkable, in taking advantage of the passing situation to regain their bargaining position in connection with the Suez Canal and the natural resources of the Middle East.

Now, to those who would be unduly critical of the actions of Great Britain and France on that occasion, I would say let it not be forgotten that the Soviet bloc was stockpiling in Egypt arms and munitions of war in huge amounts, valued at many millions of dollars, for the obvious purpose of seizing control of the natural resources of the Middle East and obtaining for itself a strategic position in that area, one which spelled disaster to the civilized countries of the Western world.

Usually Britain's diplomacy is superb in the carrying out of her various enterprises. But on this occasion I am not impressed with the skill and diplomacy which characterized the actions of the United Kingdom and France. For instance, they failed to commit the member nations of the Commonwealth to the enterprise in advance. They lost the approval of India, of Pakistan and of Ceylon; they were outvoted in the United Nations; and, worst of all, they entered upon that most serious and grave action which they took opposed by a very considerable section of their own people in the United Kingdom.

So I say, and I think I have reason for saying it, that the action taken, no matter how sound it may have been, was not in the