

## THE SENATE

Wednesday, November 18, 1953

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

Prayers.

Routine proceedings.

### DIVORCE

REPORT OF COMMITTEE CONCURRED IN

**Hon. Arthur W. Roebuck**, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Divorce, presented the first report of the committee.

The report was read by the Clerk Assistant:

The Standing Committee on Divorce beg leave to make their first report, as follows:

1. Your committee recommend that their quorum be reduced to three members for all purposes, including the taking of evidence upon oath as to the matters set forth in petitions for bills of divorce.

2. Your committee also recommend that leave be given them to sit during all adjournments of the Senate, and also during sittings of the Senate.

3. Your committee further recommend that in addition to the election of a Chairman they be empowered to elect at any time a Deputy Chairman, and that the Deputy Chairman so elected have powers equal to those of the Chairman.

**The Hon. the Speaker:** Honourable senators, when shall this report be considered?

**Hon. Mr. Roebuck:** With leave, I move that the report be concurred in now.

The motion was agreed to.

### PETITIONS WITHDRAWN

**Hon. Mr. Roebuck** severally presented and moved concurrence in the second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth reports of the Standing Committee on Divorce, recommending that applications for leave to withdraw certain petitions be granted and that the parliamentary fees paid under Rule 140 be refunded to the petitioners, less printing and translation costs.

The reports were severally read by the Clerk Assistant.

The motions were agreed to, on division.

### 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 First Session of the Twenty-Second Parliament.

**Hon. Mariana B. Jodoin** moved:

[Translation:]

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

To His Excellency the Right Honourable Vincent Massey, Member of the Order of the Companions of Honour, Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada.

May it please your Excellency:

We, Her Majesty's most dutiful and loyal 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.

She said:

(Translation):

Honourable senators, for the first time in the history of this country, a woman is awarded the honour of moving the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. This occasion strengthens the fine traditions of our Canada, which advocate the freedom of one and all to express their opinions, and which concede that freedom to women, since dictionaries define the word "person" as a generic term embracing both sexes.

This is the year of crowning achievements.

I salute with respect and affection our Gracious Sovereign Elizabeth II, who, despite her youth, gives to the whole world an example of a model wife, of an admirable mother who knows how to reconcile her family obligations with those of her royal rank. Neither the pomp and circumstance of the ceremonies of the Coronation, nor the acclamations of people from every land caused our Sovereign to lose the idea of the responsibilities she accepted as a heritage from this fine English family, whose steadfast principles safeguard our freedom and our beliefs. Following her example, we, Canadian women, strive to be dutiful. I beg Her Majesty, our worthy Sovereign, to accept the tribute of Canadian women and of the Canadian Senate, and the assurance of our entire trust and respect.

Honourable senators, the honour which is now conferred upon me, after years of devotion to my country and to my party, is an encouragement for Canadian women, especially French-speaking women, whatever their political opinion, for they understand that, sooner or later, their efforts and their devotion will be acknowledged by the leaders of this country. Who understands it better, at the present time, than the one who presides over the destinies of our country, the Right Honourable Louis St. Laurent, who has made a gesture of confidence towards Quebec, as well as towards New Brunswick and British Columbia? The women from these provinces, especially those from Quebec, thank from the bottom of their hearts the Right Honourable the Prime Minister for this outstanding honour, which I shall try to