

THE SENATE

Tuesday, December 9, 1947.

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

Prayers and routine proceedings.

TARIFFS AND TRADE

DOCUMENTS TABLED

Hon. WISHART McL. ROBERTSON: Honourable senators, I beg to lay on the table a miscellaneous group of documents. The list is a formidable one, and as it will appear in the Minutes of Proceedings of the Senate, I will dispense with a detailed reading of it now. I should like, however, to point out particularly the English and French copies of the Final Act of the Second Session of the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Employment, held at Geneva; the general agreement on tariffs and trade; schedules and other items, including the Protocol of Provisional Application, and the communications between Canada and the United States and Canada and the United Kingdom relating to the trade agreement. Also there are various documents respecting the prohibitions and restrictions imposed under Order in Council P.C. 4678, together with notes on travel restrictions; a statement concerning proposed tax measures; and in addition, copies in English of the report of meetings between delegates from the National Convention of Newfoundland and representatives of the Government of Canada, together with copies in English and French of the terms which are believed to constitute a fair and equitable basis for the union of Newfoundland with Canada.

As I have pointed out, I am not going into detail.

Hon. Mr. ROEBUCK: Will copies of these documents be distributed?

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: Some have already been distributed; others will be forthcoming in due course.

(For complete list of documents tabled, see the Minutes of the Proceedings of the Senate.)

COMMITTEE OF SELECTION

MOTION OF APPOINTMENT

Hon. WISHART McL. ROBERTSON moved:

That pursuant to Rule 77 the following senators, to wit: The Honourable Senators Ballantyne, Beaubien (Montarville), Buchanan, Copp, Haig, Howard, Sinclair, White, and the mover be appointed a Committee of Selection to

nominate senators to serve on the several Standing Committees during the present session; and to report with all convenient speed the names of the senators so nominated.

The motion was agreed to.

DECEASED SENATORS

TRIBUTES TO THEIR MEMORY

Hon. WISHART McL. ROBERTSON: Honourable senators, it becomes my duty to officially notify this house that since we last met we have lost, by death, four of our colleagues, men who occupied a very prominent position in the councils and deliberations of this honourable body. Their passing, I feel, will be mourned by us all.

The Honourable Gerald Grattan McGeer, K.C., was born on January 6, 1888, at Winnipeg, the son of James McGeer and Emily Cooke. His father was of Irish origin, and his mother was English. He received his early education in Vancouver. In his youth he sold papers, delivered milk, and worked as an iron moulder. Having a passionate desire for education, he saved enough out of these activities to study law at Dalhousie University in Nova Scotia. On graduation he returned to British Columbia and was admitted to the Bar of that province in 1915. In the general election of 1916, at the age of 28 he was elected to the British Columbia Legislature. On November 29, 1917, he married Charlotte Spencer, daughter of David Spencer of Victoria, B.C. He had two children: Patricia Anne and Michael Grattan Spencer. In 1922 he was appointed King's Counsel.

Senator McGeer took a keen interest in economic and financial problems. He wrote many articles on banking, currency and credit, and a book entitled *The Conquest of Poverty*. In 1933 he was again elected to the British Columbia Legislature. Shortly afterwards he entered civic politics in Vancouver, and was elected mayor for the term 1935-36. Perhaps his most notable achievement as mayor was the erection of Vancouver's fine new city hall. During Vancouver's Golden Jubilee anniversary celebration he received the Lord Mayor of London and the Lady Mayoress, who presented the city of Vancouver with a replica of the famous mace of the city of London.

The late senator McGeer resigned from the legislature to accept nomination in the general election of 1935, and was elected to the House of Commons. He was re-elected in the general election of 1940. On June 9, 1945, he was summoned to the Senate and, as honourable members will recall, played a very active part in our deliberations. On August 11, 1947, after several months of failing health and having undergone a serious operation, he passed away.