

Constitution such dignities, rights and responsibilities cannot be and must not be treated with disdain and contempt.

Honourable senators, during the two years I have had the honour of sitting in this house I have heard talk from the most responsible and most experienced senators about possible reform and possible improvement of the Senate. May I submit to you, honourable senators, that the first step, the first and most vital step in reforming this chamber, in making it more useful, and in gaining for it the respect and support of the people of this country, which I think it needs, is for this house to compel the other place to respect its position under the Constitution, and to realize that it is an integral part of Parliament, and that it cannot be used as a mere gramophone for the House of Commons.

I am going to give my consent to third reading of this bill tonight, but I do so under protest. I concur fully in what Senator McCutcheon said a while ago, that if the circumstances of this bill should be repeated, then, Finance Committee or no Finance Committee, it will not have my consent and I am sure it will not have his.

We complain when we read articles and editorials in the press scoffing at this house and treating it with disdain, but I say to honourable senators in all sincerity that one of the reasons for that public attitude is because this house has permitted itself again and again throughout the years, and is again permitting itself today, to be treated with contempt by the House of Commons.

**Hon. Mr. Connolly (Ottawa West):** Senator O'Leary has made quite a point about what he describes as the failure of people in high places in the other place to answer. I think we should have a little perspective in our approach to this question. This is an interim supply bill, not the final supply bill. Ministers in the other place are accountable to that place and must answer questions. I would suggest that they are not expected, and indeed it is not parliamentary practice to require them, to answer for all items in their estimates in a wide ranging debate on interim supply. Many, if not most, of the estimates for the departments are still to be debated in that house. I think there is no really valid foundation for a charge of arrogance in this respect. I think many of the pertinent questions asked in the other place have in fact been answered.

**Hon. Mr. O'Leary (Carleton):** In the last two days.

**Hon. Mr. Connolly (Ottawa West):** That may be, but whether they were answered in the last two days or in the last ten days, the plain

fact of the matter is that on interim supply, which is supply for three months, I do not think it is necessary to discuss in detail all of the estimates of all departments in a wide-ranging debate. Parliament can expect to deal in detail with the estimates in the usual way later.

**Hon. Mr. Brooks:** Surely the fact is that there was unreasonable delay, that the information was not being made available to the public, and the request was made in order that the public might find out what was really in the estimates. It has now covered a period of three, four or five months.

**Hon. Mr. Connolly (Ottawa West):** I think we cannot resolve this difference of opinion completely here. But when the honourable senators opposite put it in this way, I think I should, on behalf of this side and on behalf of the Government, put the other position.

The other point I must make is with reference to the use of the Senate as a doormat in connection with interim supply. I consider it was my duty to request His Honour the Speaker to recall the Senate today. Supply ran out on July 31. This day is August 7. I have been informed that unless supply is available quickly there will be considerable delay in the usual arrangements in respect of salaries for public servants outside of Ottawa. This will amount to roughly \$14½ million. Approximately 100,000 people will be affected if supply should be delayed beyond the end of this week and into the beginning of next week. I consider this to be a good reason why the Senate should come here today to consider interim supply.

In addition, I am informed that there are suppliers' accounts to be paid amounting to approximately \$1 million. Furthermore, there are National Health and Welfare payments to provinces amounting to over \$2 million in respect of hospital construction grants, and other items of this nature which are urgent. Therefore, I think that the Senate in coming here today is doing the duty all honourable senators would want to do. I do not consider it necessary to apologize for the fact that we treat this as urgent business. I do thank honourable senators opposite for their consideration of the situation.

Motion agreed to and bill read third time and passed.

## ROYAL ASSENT

### NOTICE

The Hon. the Speaker informed the Senate that he had received the following communication: