

for the work he has done in that position— appears on page 558 of the Senate Hansard for 1947:

South Carolina, South Ireland—that is Eire—and Quebec are the only places in the world where divorce cannot be obtained. In Canada, except in Nova Scotia, where cruelty is a ground for divorce, the only ground on which a divorce can be obtained is adultery. It is my opinion that this restriction to one ground has resulted in the wholesale commission of adultery by people seeking freedom from unhappy marriages.

Witnesses appearing before the committee are informed that they need not answer any question if, thereby, they would incriminate themselves or involve themselves in an admission of adultery; but it is rather shocking to find that men and women will boldly, brazenly and apparently without shame stand up and admit that they have been guilty of this moral crime.

Marriage is a sacrament and also a legal contract, and I urge this parliament, as a means of reducing the number of cases, to make the breaking of the marriage contract a crime under the laws of the land. Divorce

is based on adultery, and it seems reasonable to think that if adultery were a crime under the law there would be fewer applications for divorce. Why is adultery not a crime? In some countries it is so regarded, but here it is generally considered to be a personal affair.

Every divorce case is a domestic tragedy in which the innocent parties meet shame and disaster, and the stigma clings to the children particularly in all their activities. When married life becomes intolerable and unendurable, let the injured parties go to the provincial courts or come to the High Court of Parliament and have their cases heard; but let not the commission of a crime be the only ground for escape from an unhappy union.

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mrs. Fallis: Honourable senators, I move the adjournment of the debate.

The motion was agreed to.

The Senate adjourned until tomorrow at 3 p.m.