

**Hon. Mr. Howard:** In both French and English.

**Hon. Mr. Farris:** It has been in practically the same form during all that time.

**Hon. Wishart McL. Roberison:** Honourable senators, I heartily concur in the remarks of the Chairman of the Banking and Commerce Committee (Hon. Mr. Farris). There is no question that the amendments cannot be considered today without unanimous consent of the house.

But what I want to say just now has nothing to do with that point. In my official capacity I simply wish to express a word of appreciation of the very fine work that the committee has done on this important bill.

The reporting today by the Banking and Commerce Committee of its findings on the Bankruptcy Bill marks the culmination of an arduous and exacting task which had its beginning in the early summer of 1946. The bill contains 103 pages and 172 clauses. In the course of its study, over which in the main you, Mr. Speaker, so gracefully and efficiently presided, the committee held 19 meetings, revised the measure twice and made available to its extensive mailing list more than 12,000 copies of its day-to-day proceedings. Before submitting its final report the committee had heard a wide and varied list of witnesses. It considered representations from the Quebec Superior Court and the Supreme Court of Ontario, from mortgage, investment and credit companies, from bank and bar associations, and from boards of trade, industrial firms and many other groups. So numerous were the letters and briefs submitted to the committee that a subcommittee was appointed to ensure that no submission from any group, however small, was overlooked.

The Bankruptcy Bill, as it now stands, represents a successful effort on the part of the Senate Banking and Commerce Committee to hear from all interested persons and organizations across Canada, and to incorporate into the measure as many of their recommendations as were considered feasible.

On behalf of their fellow senators and, I believe, of the public in general, I wish to extend to the Banking and Commerce Committee our congratulations on work well done.

As a tangible evidence that my expression of appreciation of work well done is no mere platitude, I am today introducing a bill respecting national defence, which not only is of great importance but, as compared with the Bankruptcy bill and its 172 sections, consists of 253 sections. The Minister of National Defence, the Honourable Mr. Claxton, will come to the Senate next Tuesday

evening to explain this bill. I have not the slightest doubt that if the Senate gives second reading to the bill and refers it to the Banking and Commerce Committee for detailed consideration, it will receive the same painstaking attention that the committee has given to the bill just reported.

**Hon. John T. Haig:** Honourable senators, the honourable gentleman from Rigaud (Hon. Mr. Dupuis) has of course the right to ask that consideration of the report be postponed, but I would urge him not to press his request. I will state why. This is a very important measure for business people. During our last three sessions copies of the bill and of our Banking and Commerce Committee's proceedings, including the evidence taken from witnesses, have been sent out to everyone likely to be interested in this kind of legislation. I myself sent copies to everyone in my own province that I thought would be interested. As leader of the opposition I would be the last person to criticize the objection of any senator to consideration of a committee's report on the very day of its presentation, for it is often necessary to have time to consider a report in order to prevent undue haste in the passing of government legislation. But, as was pointed out by the chairman of the committee, the Bankruptcy Bill has been before the Senate during the present session and the preceding two sessions. It would therefore seem that every senator has had full opportunity to acquaint himself with the measure.

**Hon. Mr. Dupuis:** Would the honourable leader of the opposition allow me to interrupt? He has said that copies of the bill have been widely distributed over the country. Has he received any comments on the bill from interested parties?

**Hon. Mr. Haig:** Yes. I have received thanks from everybody to whom I sent a copy.

**Hon. Mr. Dupuis:** Have representations been made by people in different parts of the country—in Montreal, Toronto, Vancouver and Halifax, for instance?

**Hon. Mr. Haig:** Yes. I am a member of the committee to which the leader of the government has been kind enough to pay tribute for the work done upon this bill. Representations were made by interested groups in every part of Canada.

**Hon. Mr. Moraud:** Including Quebec.

**Hon. Mr. Haig:** As my honourable friend from La Salle reminds me, representatives of interested parties appeared from Quebec as well as from all the other provinces. Every recommendation and suggestion made to the committee, whether in a brief or by oral evi-