

That, honourable senators, was the first step. But, after all, the summary is only a recital of the judgments and decisions as to the direction in which the tax law should go. What is needed now is legislation that will amend in whatever way is necessary the existing income tax law so as to have the combination reflect the tax reform which the Government proposes.

However, so far as Bill C-259, which has been introduced in the House of Commons, is concerned you may well say that it uses a great many words to reflect the opinions, judgments, and decisions of the Government concerning the form and the scope of the amending legislation. I have here a copy of the bill, and while it is true that it is printed on only one side of the page, nevertheless it runs to over 700 pages. Now when one is tackling such a massive job as this, I think it is almost inevitable that it should take a very long time, and that there should be thorough and widespread consultation rather than having it confined within very narrow limits. I say this because we could arrive at a situation in which many things are introduced into the resulting bill which are not intended, while others bring about situations that are not intended, and while yet others do exactly the opposite of what was intended originally. Furthermore, the language in the bill is quite a departure from the language of taxation legislation as we know it. As a result, the combination of all these things presents many difficulties.

Despite all this, honourable senators, I find that it is not intended that there shall be any public hearings by the House of Commons committee, but that the bill shall be dealt with by the Committee of the Whole. I also gather from public statements made by the Minister of Finance, particularly that made to the Law Society of Upper Canada, that technical amendments will be proposed when the bill is being considered in the House of Commons, and that these will reflect to some extent many of the representations made to the minister and his departmental committee.

**The Hon. the Speaker:** Perhaps the honourable Senator Hayden would permit my making a remark. Apparently some difficulty is being experienced with the amplification system. Until it is corrected, may I be forgiven for placing a further burden on the shoulders of the honourable senator who has the floor by asking him to speak a little louder if at all possible.

I am now told that the defect has been corrected.

**Hon. Mr. Hayden:** I am glad to take note of His Honour's statement. I hope that I did not cause the system to go out of order, but I think, honourable senators, that if the worst came to the worst I could make myself heard without the assistance of the system, although I normally enjoy its assistance.

To return to the point I was making, from all that has been said publicly and the representations that have been made in public as well as to the minister and his department, I think it is clear that we are presented with a situation in which there are many instances of where the bill, in its scope and direction, does not carry through the

intentions and the decisions that appear in the summary. It may well be too that the language that is used is not properly descriptive of what was intended to be done.

Therefore, since the public are going to have to live with this measure, in whatever form it is passed into law, it becomes important that we spend as much time and make as careful a consideration of its provisions as is possible. The only place where there will be the opportunity for public hearings will be in a committee of the Senate. This is one of the reasons why I am urging the Senate to approve of referring this bill to the Standing Senate Committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce. After all—and I say it with some justifiable pride—in the membership of that committee we have represented the best available talent in this field of taxation. I believe we demonstrated that in our study of the White Paper. I can tell you too that we have been taking steps to organize the committee so that we will be able to proceed expeditiously.

Our sole object is to make sure that as many defects as we can catch in our study of the bill are caught and remedied, because this is what the people will have to live with. Thus it becomes important that the directions to those administering this act, when it becomes law, are clear enough so that there will not be the opportunity for differences in interpretation as between the summary of what the Government said it was intended the reform in taxation should do, and the direction in which it should go.

The thickness of this copy of Bill C-259 can be seen. It is important that we get to work as quickly as possible in order that we may make some study of the bill. I would like to be able to say that we can make a complete study, but that would be a vain hope, because for a number of years after this bill passes into law there will be annual presentations of amendments because of the interpretations of which the language is capable and which were not sufficiently thought out in those extended applications before the bill was passed. Yet, January 1 is the deadline. The economy and the revenues are geared to this bill, with its substantial provisions, becoming effective on January 1, 1972.

Therefore, I think it is our duty, as best we can, to accommodate ourselves to that intention and plan. At the same time I think we should work as hard as we can to make it as effective and as easy of administration and understanding as is possible in the limited time available. You will not get perfection, but I think the result of the committee's sittings and conclusions will be to remedy many of the situations arising in the transition from existing law, through the decisions made in the summary to the implementation of those decisions in Bill C-259. We may be able to correct and adjust much that is in this bill that is not really intended and does not serve the purpose it was designed to serve.

I believe I can say without betraying any confidence, in connection with some of the points brought to the attention of the officials of the department, that when they have been told that this or that particular section or series of sections of Bill C-259 accomplishes a certain