

he may put the question, and if the honourable gentleman who is speaking wishes to answer he may do so; otherwise I will not permit an interruption.

Hon. Mr. Macdonald (Brantford): I will follow that procedure.

Hon. Mr. Brooks: That is the point I wish to make, that we in this chamber should have had the bill before us for third reading and every honourable senator in this house should have had an opportunity to vote on a motion for third reading.

Hon. Mr. Macdonald (Brantford): Question!

Hon. Vincent Dupuis: Honourable senators, I do not want to delay the handling of this important bill. I was always pleased to believe that this honourable body, the Senate of Canada, was composed of men and women who held themselves above party allegiances, and that they were bound by their oath to vote according to their conscience and to judge the facts objectively. This means that when we are asked to decide something in this chamber we should ask ourselves in our own conscience whether the action we take is in the interests of this country or against it. That is the only purpose of this body and that is why Sir John A. Macdonald, in his wisdom, with other Fathers of Confederation, decided that the Senate was to be a chamber of second thought.

Hon. Mr. Méthot: May I ask the honourable gentleman a question? Are you actually in favour of retaining the Governor of the Bank of Canada in office?

Hon. Mr. Dupuis: He has said that he would not remain in office. I would very much like all honourable members of this chamber to remind themselves of the prayer—

Hon. Mr. Emerson: Did Mr. Coyne take an oath that he would resign?

Some Hon. Senators: No! No!

Hon. Mr. Dupuis: I would ask all honourable senators to be good enough to remember that each day before the sitting of the Senate His Honour the Speaker recites a prayer which reads, in part, as follows:

...that all things may be so ordered and settled by their endeavours

—the endeavours of the members of this chamber—

upon the best and surest foundations, that peace and happiness, truth and justice...may be established among us...

I think that if we are sincere when we join in that invocation we should try to control our nerves and not lose our tempers in the manner that some of us have done in

this chamber in the last few days. I beg my honourable colleagues to let me proceed. I shall not be long, if I am not interrupted.

Hon. Mr. Emerson: Go ahead. You have all afternoon.

Hon. Mr. Dupuis: The purpose of this legislation is to get rid of an important official of this country, the Governor of the Bank of Canada, the head of an institution established by the Bennett Government to help the Government control the fiscal policy, the financial policy, of this country. The position of the governor was created so that, among other things, he could help the Government in its financial dealings and in preparing its annual budget. It so happened that for a long time the present Government of Canada and the Governor of the Bank of Canada were in full agreement. If I am not mistaken, the ones who criticized Mr. Coyne at that time were the Liberals, for they believed he was too much in agreement with the Government of the day. But one day the whole picture changed, suddenly and without warning, and Mr. Coyne was called to the office of the Minister of Finance and for about half an hour he listened to nothing else but a statement as to why he was no longer needed in office, and that he should resign. In describing this conference he said, if I am not mistaken, that he could not talk for at least half an hour, so greatly was he surprised at the attitude of the Minister of Finance.

It seems to me that as he is an appointee of the Parliament of Canada—and this has been stated many times—we should remind ourselves that the Parliament is composed of the representatives of the people, including the Senate. And those representatives had a solemn duty to give Mr. Coyne an opportunity to defend himself before his peers, this responsible Government. The honourable senator from Mille Isles (Hon. Mr. Monette), who is from St. Philippe, Laprairie, knows the struggle which our ancestors had to bring about responsible government. Before 1834 and 1835 the Legislative Council refused to comply with requests made by the elected house in Quebec. Legislation which was in favour of the people was always turned down by the council, and if one dared to oppose the council at Quebec, that body sought to get rid of him. Among the patriots in 1835 there was one who called himself the general of the Canadian Army, but he was a traitor. He was not the general, but that is what he called himself, because he wanted to be over the captain of the militia of the day.

The Hon. the Speaker: The honourable senator is going very far afield.

Hon. Mr. Brunt: Let him go.