

Senator Frith: I am trying to earn the adjective.

I am sure that many of us have often thought that to speak of humanitarian codes of behaviour for war is a contradiction in terms and is oxymoronic, if that is the word. However, I suppose that many people have profited from the fact that these conventions and protocols exist. Certainly, in the context of modern warfare, it is hard to think about the word "humanitarian" as applying to any aspect or dimension of war.

However, there is an important international dimension to this matter, because, as I understand it, some countries—the United States, for example—have still not done what this legislation sets out to do, and that is to make breaches of the conventions and protocols an offence under local law—and by "local" I mean in the sense of national law.

● (1830)

Honourable senators, I think that our Committee on Foreign Affairs could serve us well by making a study of this bill and getting some evidence on the record of their proceedings to help us in determining our vote at third reading.

We support the principle of the bill, recommend adoption of it at second reading, and suggest reference to the Committee on Foreign Affairs after second reading.

Motion agreed to and bill read second time.

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

The Hon. the Speaker *pro tempore*: Honourable senators, when shall this bill be read the third time?

On motion of Senator Macquarrie, bill referred to the Standing Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs.

The Senate adjourned until tomorrow at 2 p.m.
