

enable a newsman to make a fast buck by publishing information that has not been made available in the normal course of events.

A committee report in the course of preparation is clearly not news. It is something which is still being considered. I simply do not believe that any useful service is rendered to the public of Canada, the Government of Canada, the Parliament of Canada, when someone smart tries to make a fast buck by getting ahead of his competitors in this way. If we did this sort of thing we would have charges of conflict of interest, irresponsibility, and all sort of epithets thrown at us. But, when this is done by members of the news media, no one can criticize them. They are up there beside God.

**Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear!

**Senator Desruisseaux:** Honourable senators, I could not agree more with what Senator Molson has said. However, I believe that the main offenders in these cases are those who provide these leaks to the press. They are the individuals we should be after. The press will print whatever news they can find.

**Senator Hayden:** Honourable senators, the Committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce, when studying the White Paper on Taxation, was concerned about this particular problem. In that instance, of course, it was a committee of the Senate and not a joint committee. In an effort to control that very thing, copies of the draft reports at the various stages were signed for by the members of the committee at the commencement of meetings and were collected at the end of the meetings. It worked very well. There were no leaks. When the report was finally approved by the committee, all copies were collected by the committee clerk and returned to the chairman. Thus we were able to keep reasonable control. Doing that with joint committees may present difficulties. However, I think it can be done, and it looks as though the committee will have to exercise itself and find ways of retaining confidentiality.

**Senator Connolly (Ottawa West):** Honourable senators, I think there are also times when a standard of ethics could and should apply. There are times when cabinet documents are released and appear in the press, or substantial extracts are published. Members of a cabinet, no matter which one, are sworn to secrecy; they take the oath of the Privy Council. These men feel that the onus is upon them to observe this oath. Most cabinet ministers have to provide a locked place for documents, and I think they do everything that is reasonably possible to make sure that there is secrecy.

If a document is considered to be as serious as that by members of the Privy Council, surely if such documents get into unauthorized hands the unauthorized person should have some sense of decency as to what is proper and right respecting the secrecy of the document, instead of broadcasting it generally. There seems to be a feeling abroad that if you get hold of a piece of information, regardless of the means used to get it into your hands, it can be used. I believe that this is the attitude that faces Senator Buckwold and others who are confronted with this problem.

[Senator Molson.]

## DOCUMENTS TABLED

**Senator Langlois** tabled:

Copies of Report of the Study Group on Dissociation, dated December 24, 1975 (Mr. James A. Vantour, Chairman), published under the authority of the Solicitor General of Canada.

## WESTERN GRAIN STABILIZATION BILL

### REPORT OF COMMITTEE

**Senator Michaud,** Deputy Chairman of the Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture, to which was referred Bill C-41, respecting the stabilization of net proceeds from the production and sale of western grain and to amend certain statutes in consequence thereof, presented the following report:

The Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture to which was referred Bill C-41, intituled: "An Act respecting the stabilization of net proceeds from the production and sale of western grain and to amend certain statutes in consequence thereof" has, in obedience to the order of reference of Tuesday, February 10, 1976, examined the said bill and now reports the same without amendment.

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

**Senator McDonald** moved that the bill be placed on the Orders of the Day for third reading at the next sitting.

Motion agreed to.

● (1420)

## BUSINESS OF THE SENATE

**Senator Langlois:** Honourable senators, with leave of the Senate and notwithstanding rule 45(1)(g), I move that when the Senate adjourns today it do stand adjourned until Tuesday next, February 17, 1976, at 8 o'clock in the evening.

Before the question is put, I should like, as usual, to give a brief summary of what we can expect for the next week.

We will continue the second reading debate on Bill C-71, the Criminal Law Amendment Act, and hopefully refer the bill to committee. There is also the third reading of Bill C-41, the Western Grain Stabilization Act, which has been placed on the Orders of the Day for third reading at the next sitting of the Senate. Bill C-58, the *Time and Reader's Digest* bill, is still before the Commons but is expected to come to us next week.

On Tuesday or Wednesday, Senator Macnaughton will call the attention of the Senate to the recent meeting of the Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group held in Key Biscayne, Florida. I understand that a number of other senators who attended the meeting wish to speak on this item.

On Tuesday, the Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs will meet at 2.30 p.m. to continue its study of the Green Paper on Members of Parliament and Conflict of Interest.