

**Hon. Mr. Creer:** Honourable senators, if I may claim the privilege of a few words in closing the discussion, I should like to associate myself entirely with what was said by the leader of the opposition (Hon. Mr. Haig) about the steering committee. The omission to refer to the steering committee was a curious lapse on my part, for I had an item about it in my notes. The steering committee did very excellent work, and as chairman I cannot speak too highly of the co-operation I had from that committee, as I also did from the general committee. What the leader of the opposition said about the careful drafting of the report by the steering committee is according to fact.

One more point. I am a modest man, honourable senators, and I am a bit overwhelmed by the compliments showered upon me this afternoon. I think they have been a little too flattering. Nevertheless I want to express my thanks to my colleagues for the kind things they have said about me.

I also wish to associate myself very warmly indeed with the remarks of the acting leader of the house (Hon. Mr. Hugessen) as to the splendid co-operation we had from several departments of the civil service and the assistance they gave to the committee in its work.

The motion was agreed to, and the report was concurred in.

### COMBINES INVESTIGATION ACT AND CRIMINAL CODE BILL

#### COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS CONCURRED IN

The Senate proceeded to consideration of the amendments made by the Standing Committee on Banking and Commerce to Bill 306, an Act to amend the Combines Investigation Act and the Criminal Code.

**Hon. J. W. de B. Farris:** Honourable senators, I move that the amendments be concurred in.

**Hon. G. P. Burchill:** Honourable senators, I would not be honest with myself if I did not say something before this report is carried. I think that some of the sections go further than is necessary, and are what might be called hasty legislation.

My business interests are very modest and are confined to my native province. I have no connection whatever with "big interests". I am entirely actuated by what I believe to be a sense of sound policy for the treatment and regulation of Canadian business and industry, and in that connection I am bound to say that the present bill introduces undesirable features and goes further than is wholesome or necessary.

I feel that we in Canada owe a lot to our leaders in business and industry. We can well be proud of the achievements of these men, who in co-operation with their staffs and employees have set a world's record in the last five years in Canada.

A glance at the income tax and revenue of this country will show the substantial amount that industry contributes to the national treasury. Add to that the amount that comes out of the pay envelopes and from the earnings of the people who are directly employed by industry, to say nothing of the people who are indirectly affected, and it is clear that the commercial life of this country at the present time is carrying a tremendous load and is responsible for a large share of the revenues of the nation. In addition, we must remember that there are employed in Canada today something like 3,725,000 people, whose welfare and prosperity are all bound up in industry.

I should like to pay tribute to the character of our Canadian businessmen, and to emphasize my belief that Canada's prosperity and welfare are closely linked with a cordial and happy relationship between government and the industrial leaders of our nation.

This bill is based on the report of the MacQuarrie Committee. There was no representative of business or anyone having a practical knowledge of the business world on that committee. Moreover, I wonder how many honourable senators have read the committee's report.

The bill introduces some new principles of law which have never before been a part of the criminal law of this nation for dealing with any crime whatever. Another new feature is the provision to investigate situations before any crime has been committed. While the powers given by the bill can no doubt be safely left in the hands of our present Minister of Justice and his deputies, we must remember that we are passing legislation which will be a part of the laws of this nation long after we have disappeared, and it seems to me these powers are capable of being made use of some day by another government in a very unscrupulous manner.

Monopoly has been described as an undue lessening of competition. It is common knowledge that some so-called monopolies are in the public interest and stabilize employment. The fixing of prices has become a national habit, as our farmer friends must agree, and floor and ceiling prices are established by government.

For this young and vigorous country, with its wealth of raw materials, we predict a