

without the consent of the Attorney General. This is to prevent a multiplicity of proceedings, and also to prevent the harassing of periodical publications.

May I conclude, honourable senators, by saying that the conditions which this bill is designed to correct have received a most intensive study by many competent persons over a very considerable period of time since the present Government took office. The substance of the bill is recommended after thoughtful investigation by a highly competent committee under the chairmanship of the Dean of the Faculty of Law of the University of McGill.

The bill itself has been drawn, to my personal knowledge, in all its detail with the greatest of care by the Department of Justice of our own Parliament, and may I say again that hate propaganda is so odious and so dangerous in its effect on the groups against which it is directed that it is cruelly unjust and should be prohibited.

I congratulate the Government on the production of this bill and I recommend its passage by this house. I confidently suggest that it will, after some discussion of detail, receive the unanimous approval of this house. I hope it will.

I understand, honourable senators, that there will be proposed a joint committee of both houses of Parliament appointed to consider in detail the report which I have mentioned, together with this bill and as well the purposes of this measure.

That is all that I can say at the moment in description of the bill, its need and its possible beneficial effect in our community.

Hon. Edgar Fournier: Honourable senators, I am not a member of the legal profession, but after hearing the honourable Senator Roebuck give such a fine description of this bill, I surely endorse all his words and all his wisdom. I believe this bill is long overdue and will serve a very good purpose.

While I listened very attentively to the honourable senator's explanation, and he mentioned many of the groups that will be affected, I was wondering whether some of the cartoonists we have in Canada would not fall under these categories. This is just my own personal opinion, but sometimes I wonder if some of these public demonstrations—and they do not have to be written, as far as I am concerned—are not in the category of hate literature. Some of these demonstrations are carried too far; some day they may result in a great deal of trouble.

When I mention cartoonists, what I have in mind is the type of thing that is intended to destroy somebody, the sort of caricatures that are repeated in newspapers day after day. Is this freedom? Sometimes we have a tendency to hide too many things behind "freedom" and "liberty".

Just a few days ago there was a demonstration here in front of Parliament: two young men burned the Canadian flag, although less than six months ago there was an act passed here demanding respect for the flag. These two young men that I refer to came here and burned the flag deliberately, knowing very well what they were doing. They challenged the protective staff and the R.C.M.P. They challenged the Government as a whole, and their action was an insult to the Canadian people. It took place in front of the veterans of our country who gave everything they had so that we might have a Canadian flag which would fly with pride. In my view it was an act of savagery of the lowest level. But, honourable senators, somewhere along the line these people can hide behind freedom. I believe the time has come when we should do something about this type of demonstration. I have no objection to the displaying of banners or flags, but when it comes to the burning of the Canadian flag in front of the Canadian Parliament, that is another matter. This is going too far and I object strongly.

I know this bill has nothing in it which will prevent this sort of thing, but I hope it is a first step and that at a later stage some regulations may be made to prevent repetitions of this act.

I believe this bill will do much good and I hope it will have an early passage. We will give it all the support we can and we hope it will serve the purpose for which it is intended.

Hon. Mr. Roebuck: Perhaps I should state in the public interest that according to my information those young men have been arrested. In those circumstances, and according to the law, we should not discuss the matter here, because it is *sub judice*.

Hon. Mr. Fournier (Madawaska-Restigouche): I am very glad to hear they have been arrested.

Hon. Mr. Roebuck: That is my information. On motion of Hon. Mr. Croll, debate adjourned.

The Senate adjourned until tomorrow at 3 p.m.