

Eaton's, Simpsons-Sears, everywhere, to dig out these products which are included in the schedule to this bill, and others to be added.

Honourable senators, I have nothing against this bill. You can have all the inspectors in the world, as far as I am concerned, but they will be doing a job which every merchant, every druggist, every manufacturer is happy to do himself. That is, the moment these individuals throughout the country are warned by the Food and Drug Directorate in Ottawa, or by the health departments of the provinces, that they have a product on their shelves which will have a deleterious effect on the health of people or which might contain a poisonous substance or something like that, you can be sure that product will be taken off the shelves and counters of such establishments. Personally, I am 100 per cent sure that the merchants and manufacturers of this country would comply with such a request. So, I just say that this was the objection I took to a similar bill in a previous session, and I take the same practical objection to the present bill.

There is the second objection, that I do not like the federal Government to legislate under the criminal law on every opportunity they have to do so or, where they cannot legislate under the criminal law, under some other provision of the Constitution, except in case of reasonable necessity. Anyway I do not like inspectors to be prying into legitimate business except in case of dire need, and I do not believe the need exists here.

That is about all I have to say on this matter. I will not vote against the bill. Sure, let us pass it. Let us spend the \$1 million or \$5 million a year that will be required to cover the cost of the administration of the act. Let us get 100 or 1,000 additional inspectors to snoop into every grocery and drug store. Sure, let us do all those things, but I suggest that the time has come when we should look at these pressure groups, such as the Consumers Association of Canada, and stop them from leading us into spending millions of dollars which really need not be squandered in this manner.

Hon. John J. Kinley: Honourable senators, it is not my intention to make a speech on this bill, but I have been extensively engaged in the pharmaceutical business for many years and, I must say, I was interested in the discussion.

Any antagonistic views I had towards the bill were calmed when I read clause 15 which says specifically that drugs, cosmetics and explosives are not included in the provisions of the bill. When I read that I realized there are some things that are harmful in the kitchen to women's hands, and that there are substances which have specific properties that will cause trouble if one does not know how to use them.

I think there is some merit in the bill. However, I do not think the situation is as bad as we have been led to believe, but this is an attempt to protect people. I do not know what the administration cost will be. The bill will go to committee, where we can discuss it, and I am sure that the committee will be wise enough to give it the sort of consideration which will be of benefit to the public.

Hon. Mr. Thorvaldson: Could I ask the honourable senator a question? After having made these remarks, are you aware of the fact—and this is a statement I made a year and a half ago which went unchallenged—that no country except Canada has found it necessary to legislate in regard to—

Hon. Mr. Croll: Establishing a department of consumer affairs. It could be they are a little backward, could it not?

Hon. Mr. Thorvaldson: It could be, but that is not my question. I just made the statement.

Hon. Mr. Kinley: Canada might be in the forefront. I attended the hearings of the committee on narcotics at the United Nations, and I was sitting beside Canada's representative. After he had spoken, the Russian representative sent him a note in which he said, "You have made the best presentation of anyone here. You are a credit to the profession." I believe that our representative was a pharmacist.

Hon. Mr. Choquette: You have not answered the question that was asked.

Hon. J. Harper Prowse: Might I suggest, for the assistance of the honourable Senator Thorvaldson, that he might get some comfort from the fact that probably the majority of the people in the world live in countries where they are not subject to any narcotic control? As a matter of fact, the majority of the people in the world can neither read nor write.

Hon. Mr. Thorvaldson: What about the United States?