

been made whereby, under certain conditions, the author may recover his book if it has not yet been published. If no expenditure has been made by the publisher, the author may recover his book almost automatically. If, on the other hand, expenditures have been made in connection with the publication, even though the book has not yet been published, the trustee is given a certain length of time in which to decide whether he is going to proceed with publication or not, and the author is likewise given a period of time to decide whether he is going to take the book back. I think honourable senators may rely on these provisions as being satisfactory.

The committee heard new representations in addition to those already heard in previous years, and although the people making them did not get all they asked for, I believe they went away reasonably satisfied. At the same time I am sure the Superintendent of Insurance feels that none of the changes made will seriously disturb the policy laid down by the Department.

The committee held lengthy sessions, during which it went carefully into these matters. In addition, there was a subcommittee, of which the honourable senator from Toronto (Hon. Mr. Hayden) was chairman and the honourable leader of the opposition (Hon. Mr. Haig) was a member. This subcommittee spent a great deal of time with the Superintendent of Insurance and Mr. MacNeill, the Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel of the Senate, going into a digest of the various contentious parts of the bill. The main committee then had the benefit of the subcommittee's report, and was thus enabled to deal with the matter in an effective manner, so I think we are quite justified in dealing with these amendments now.

Hon. Vincent Dupuis: Before the honourable leader speaks, would he allow me to make a humble suggestion about this important measure? Many of us who are lawyers feel that, for a number of serious reasons, our Bankruptcy Act should have been amended a long time ago. The honourable gentleman from Vancouver South (Hon. Mr. Farris), who has suggested immediate consideration of the amendments proposed in the Banking and Commerce Committee's report, said that senators who are not on that committee need not worry about these amendments. I am not worrying. In fact, as a lawyer, I am ready to admit that the members of that important committee, who are all very capable persons, have done a good job. But the common people have the right to submit their views on this important piece of legislation.

In my opinion, those of us who wish to do so should have an opportunity to study the

complete bill, as amended, and not only in the text in which it was amended but in the French text, which I suppose was not studied and amended concurrently with the English text. Therefore I strongly urge that consideration of the report be postponed for a period long enough to permit copies of the amended bill to be printed in English and French and distributed to every member of the Senate. Unless we can study the bill as amended, we cannot form an opinion as to whether it is in the interests of the people.

My honourable friend from Vancouver South (Hon. Mr. Farris) does not seem to be in favour of my suggestion, but I would point out once more that this is an important piece of legislation, and that we have the right to know what we are doing. My honourable friend may say, "If you were interested in the bill you ought to have attended the committee's sittings and followed its proceedings", but that argument would surely not be allowed to override the feeling of those who are not members of the committee and who would like further time to study the bill. Every senator who is not on the Banking and Commerce Committee has the right to have an opportunity to study the amended bill carefully, in order to understand the full effect of what has been done. I therefore urge again that consideration of the amendments be postponed until next week.

Hon. Mr. Farris: Honourable senators, there is no question about my honourable friend's right to a postponement. It is a fully recognized right and one that he does not need to assert, for my proposal that the amendments be considered today could only be carried by unanimous consent. But in fairness to myself I should like to point out that by far the greater part of the bill was not amended by the committee, and that the bill in substantially its present form has been before this house for the whole of the current session, as well as during the two preceding sessions.

Hon. Mr. Dupuis: But were we furnished with copies of it?

Hon. Mr. Farris: Yes. I am not opposing my honourable friend's request that consideration of the amendments be postponed, for, under our rules, there is no question about his right to make that request. But if there is any implication that I was trying to railroad the bill through, I wish to repeat that the whole bill, except for these amendments—and they are very trivial in comparison with the great principles involved—has been printed and distributed to every senator this session, to say nothing of the two previous sessions.