

meet his convenience I understand that Senator Macdonald is now requesting that this order should stand until later this day.

Order stands.

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

PROPOSED STUDY OF PROCEDURES BY LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
—DEBATE CONTINUED

The Senate resumed from Thursday, April 9, the adjourned debate on the motion of Hon. Mr. Martin that the Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs be instructed to consider and, from time to time, to report on procedures for the review by the Senate of instruments made in virtue of any statute of the Parliament of Canada, and to consider in connection therewith any public documents relevant thereto.

Hon. Edgar E. Fournier: Honourable senators, on previous occasions I have admitted my ignorance of legal and constitutional affairs. In the first place, the reason is that I do not belong to the legal profession. I am not a university professor, nor do I belong to the intellectual community. I am just a simple and plain Canadian taxpayer who pays his taxes without a word to say under existing legal and constitutional affairs. When I received my income tax return I failed to find any area where I could declare any degree of ignorance on the matter. Over 90 per cent of my income tax was deducted at source without my consent, and I had to forward to the taxation branch an additional several hundred dollars within a limited time, or else.

Some people in this country call this confiscation; others call it highway robbery; and others have different names for it. I do not agree with this. I call it the price of freedom, a price I consider we are lucky to have the privilege to pay for what we have in Canada—freedom of speech, as I have now, freedom of religion and the abundance over necessities which we enjoy.

Since I have been in the Senate it has been my privilege to visit several European countries, and some of the poorest countries in the world—Africa, India, Israel and a bit of Egypt. It gave me a great chance to see for myself and become more conscious of freedom and abundance. This is worth something. Taxes are my contribution. Freedom is by no means a one-way street. I willingly and gladly pay my taxes, provided that they keep within a limited range.

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I feel sorry that too many Canadians do not see it this way. We must remember that we could lose this freedom which we cherish, much sooner and faster than we expect, if we are not very careful. It takes only a small percentage of the population to lead the country to slavery for generations to come.

Many senators have spoken on this matter generally, and I agree with almost everything that has been said. However, in some respects I have differences of opinion with them. I take exception to some of the remarks made by my good friend Senator Lamontagne last week with the intention of closing the debate. I believe that intention was good, but the content of his speech was a little too politically spicy for me.

Hon. Mr. Flynn: It was a hope.

Hon. Mr. Fournier (Madawaska-Restigouche): It would be all right on a political platform in the country, but not in this chamber; I think we are above that. Surely no one here would attribute the state in which the country finds itself today to a Conservative administration, after almost 30 years of consecutive Liberal administration, with a short break of four years between 1958 and 1962, especially when Tory policy, which was criticized by the Liberals, was later in great measure accepted by the Liberal government as sound and proper policy.

Having said that, I change the subject and refer to constitutional affairs.

Hon. Mr. Croll: Very good.

Hon. Mr. Fournier (Madawaska-Restigouche): There is no question in my mind, after my experience, that the powers of government and the elected members have been invaded by the civil servants, especially the powers of the members of the other place. However, civil servants are usually very cooperative, pleasant and willing to help, especially those at the higher level. I am afraid I cannot say the same for some of the younger civil servants, with some of whom I have had dealings. In my opinion, they thought they were the government and owned the institutions, although their number is rather limited. In my 18 years of political life I have met almost all types. Today civil servants are part of the institution, and their assistance is greatly needed by all of us.

I should like to give an example of what happens to new members, as happened to me, when all of a sudden one moves from being a street-level, plain citizen, to become a cabinet