

I would suggest that if all of us made a study of some of the issues involved in this kind of turmoil within the universities, we would find that the right is not all on one side, that there is a very enlightened effort being made today by students and by members of faculties to see that the universities are, in a real sense, taking into account the wishes and desires and the needs of the students as well as the opinions and the needs of the faculties and the administration.

Nobody wants to see excesses, and I deplore as much as anyone here the kind of excesses that one observes in some places at this time. But the very fact that our young people are active and aggressive and are advancing new ideas—ideas that are going to improve universities in the long run—is not an argument that they are irresponsible. On the contrary, it is an indication that our young people of 18 years of age and over are prepared and are capable of making responsible decisions when it comes to casting a ballot in a federal election.

I would hope that members will support this measure. When a young Canadian joins the armed services of this country, he or she is entitled to vote in federal elections. I can quote from statements made by many distinguished persons over the years in support of lowering the voting age. I quote from the House of Commons *Hansard*, July 14, 1960:

There is a great deal to be said in the circumstances of today for the reduction of the voting age from 21 to 18, and most of the major arguments in favour of such a change were given by the hon. member for Assiniboia. The argument which I think must make the greatest appeal is that we do not hesitate as a state to call on young people to fight for our country and, if necessary to die for our country, as thousands under the age of 21 have done. We ask them to accept the supreme obligation of citizenship in this regard, irrespective of whether they are 21 or 20 or 19 or 18, so it seems to me that if we ask Canadians to take on that obligation the time has come when they should have the privilege of voting so they may do their share in determining the policies which might affect the situations in which they would be asked to share in this supreme obligation. I think young people of 18 or 19 or 20, as a result of the training they received in our educational establishments today, are quite qualified to use their judgment wisely and well in

respect of the franchise as well as in respect of other matters on which we ask young people today to exercise their judgment.

We do place obligations on and grant privileges to young people in many fields now, including the privilege of paying taxes. If we are going to ask them to serve in the armed forces and to pay their share of the expenses of government, I think the time has come when we should give them the privilege of playing their part in determining government policy.

The man speaking at that time was the Right Honourable Lester B. Pearson. This is an indication of the kind of thinking that supports the measure I have the honour to present today. I know that honourable senators will give this measure careful consideration before deciding whether or not to pass this measure. I would ask them to consider this question very sincerely, and to consider the position in which they will place the Senate if they pass it. We will be saying to the House of Commons and to the people of Canada that we are prepared to show some leadership on this question. If we pass this measure, I am 100 per cent convinced that the House of Commons will have to pass it. They would not dare turn it down. Think of the kind of publicity that the Senate would get. The passage of this measure will mean that this generation of senators will have reached over a generation of Canadians and joined hands with the youth of this country in saying that they, the youth, should share in the responsibility of deciding the kind of government we have in the future. If the Senate wants to do something for itself and something for Canada, I believe that this would be a good indication of that kind of desire. I would say to each senator, no matter what he or she may think of the bill, let us take a vote on it before too many sittings have gone by. Let us have enough sittings to have it thoroughly debated and then let us take a vote. Let us not kill it by refusing to vote on it or by adjourning the debate interminably and making a marathon debate which goes on indefinitely. Let us, within a reasonable number of sittings of this chamber, have this measure put to a vote and let the senators, by voting on this measure, demonstrate to the people of Canada whether they wish to show that they are part of a forward-looking Senate in this present century.