

Hon. H.A. Olson: I do not know whether the minister is going to answer. If he is not going to answer Senator Gigantès' question—

Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government and Minister of State for Federal-Provincial Relations): I have answered already.

Senator Olson: —I would like to ask him another question. How can the Leader of the Government justify this or suggest that this is non-partisan material, which will cost \$10 million, when the minister responsible, the Honourable John Crosbie, has informed the Women's National Conservative Association that free trade is going to be an election issue? If he has said that, this then becomes Tory propaganda and nothing short of it. How does the Leader of the Government justify that kind of action, or is he denying that Mr. Crosbie, the minister responsible, has already made the announcement that free trade will be an election issue?

Senator Murray: Honourable senators, election issues are not decided solely by the government or by the Progressive Conservative Party. I would think that my honourable friends opposite, if they can get their act together, might have something to say about that.

Senator Olson: If your honourable friends opposite got their act together and read some of your old speeches, they could make some most telling comments about the right stage at which the government can print things like this and call them public documents. The Leader of the Government used to argue that until they are passed by Parliament they are Tory or Liberal propaganda. You are trying to make that point, and that is the stage you are now at. If you like, I will dig up the chapter and verse of your own statements.

Senator Murray: My friend can dig up chapter and verse if he likes, but I would ask that he not rush to judgment. He should wait to see what the content of this public information campaign is before he rushes to condemn it as partisan.

Senator Olson: It is not I who am rushing; it is your own colleague, the minister responsible for it, who is. Mr. Crosbie has already said what he is going to do with the trade issue. He has said they are going to spend \$10 million promoting the acceptance of the free trade deal. It seems to me that the minister should at least read his own propaganda.

COPYRIGHT ACT

BILL TO AMEND—REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON MESSAGE FROM COMMONS AND MOTION FOR NON-INSISTENCE UPON SENATE AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

The Senate proceeded to consideration of the Twenty-Fifth Report of the Standing Senate Committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce (Motion and Message relating to certain amendments to Bill C-60, An Act to amend the Copyright Act and to amend other Acts in consequence thereof), presented on Tuesday, May 31, 1988.

Hon. Richard J. Doyle: Honourable senators, I have spoken on this subject before, and I will not detain you for long this afternoon. I first spoke on this bill in this chamber some weeks ago when I was filled with a great deal of hope that we would move quickly to accept legislation that in my opinion seemed very much needed and too long in coming, many years having passed since we had seriously looked at the subject of copyright.

• (1420)

When I returned to this subject after it had been to the Banking, Trade and Commerce Committee and the committee had presented its report, I came back with concern, alarm and almost with depression that the merits of the bill had been lost in a discussion of whether or not the timing was particularly propitious and whether or not we should wait until we had the second copyright bill which had been promised. I tried to give some shape to those concerns at that time.

The committee received the message from the other place, and since we last discussed it here the matter has been dealt with twice in the committee. At the first meeting it was agreed that we should be willing to see the minister at her earliest convenience if she was available so that we could pursue questions having to do with what had already occurred, or what might occur in the near future, by way of getting users and creators of copyright together to agree on how they should function under the bill. What we were searching for—what the chairman was searching for, certainly—was some reassurance that, if we did get on with the first half of the legislation, the second half would come shortly and would be received as a matter calling for some immediate agreement by the parties concerned.

I am overjoyed to be able to speak to you today and say that this assurance was forthcoming from the minister in a most affirmative way; that the existence of the legislation had been a spur to the people who are to be affected by it—that is, the users and the creators—and that they were meeting, had been meeting and would be meeting. The minister was convinced that most of the matters dealt with in Bill C-60 would be resolved and, what is more, she would, given the normal process of government activity, be ready with the second half of the legislation by September of this year.

It was with that reassurance from the minister that the members of the committee were willing to come to the agreement which you found yesterday in the report submitted to this chamber.

I will not read that report, but I will read its conclusion. It states:

The evidence presented by the Minister of Communications to the Committee indicated that progress has been made toward resolving outstanding issues between users and creators of copyright material. This includes agreement on most of the exceptions from copyright to be provided to users in stage two of copyright reform. The