

chapter 28, Statutes of Canada, 1957. (English and French texts).

Report of the Superintendent of Insurance for Canada, Volume II, Annual Statements of Fire and Casualty Insurance Companies for the year ended December 31, 1965, pursuant to section 9 of the Department of Insurance Act, chapter 70, R.S.C., 1952. (English and French texts).

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE—
DOCUMENTS DEPOSITED IN THE
CLERK'S OFFICE

He said: Honourable senators, while I am dealing with documents, may I, with your indulgence, ask to be relieved of an undertaking I gave honourable Senator Ross Macdonald on November 22 last. After I had tabled certain documents with respect to the recent federal-provincial meetings, Senator Macdonald (Brantford) suggested I should circulate them among all senators.

I have in my hand copies of these documents in English and French and, as honourable senators can see, they form a very thick pile. Not every senator will require a copy.

I know that Senator Macdonald (Brantford) would be able to examine the material I have here. I do have one extra copy, and I wondered whether it would be satisfactory if I informed honourable senators that in the office of the Clerk there will be an extra copy of these documents available for any senator who wishes to inspect them, with the exception of the document entitled "Federal-Provincial Tax Structure Committee." That is the report dated September 14 and 15, 1966. About 60 copies of that report are available in the office of the Clerk, and I am sure that any senator who requires a copy could obtain one. If we run short, I would appreciate it if anyone who has not been accommodated would let me know.

Under those circumstances, may I be relieved of the undertaking I gave the other evening?

Hon. Senators: Agreed.

Hon. Mr. Connolly (Ottawa West): Thank you very much.

CRIMINAL CODE (HATE PROPAGANDA)

BILL TO AMEND—SECOND READING—
DEBATE CONTINUED

The Senate resumed from Thursday, November 17, the adjourned debate on the motion of Hon. Mr. Roebuck for the second reading of Bill S-49, to amend the Criminal Code.

Hon. Lionel Choquette: Honourable senators, the sponsor of this bill, Senator Roebuck, has given us, as he always does, a very clear and concise explanation of the proposed legislation which if passed will be incorporated in the Canadian Criminal Code.

I must say at the outset that Senator Roebuck must be admired for his courage in sponsoring this bill, because in doing so he is in some measure advocating something which he has combatted all his life, namely, stifling to some extent freedom of speech and freedom of the press.

When listening to his remarks and those of Senator Croll, I could not help thinking that if I were to present such legislation I would have two formidable adversaries vehemently opposing it, namely, the sponsor of this bill and his good friend Senator Croll.

Honourable senators, I thought that the sponsor and Senator Croll were speaking with tongue in cheek when they spoke about this bill. But I watched them closely, and seeing no bulge on either side of their face I had to conclude that they were not speaking with tongue in cheek but that they were speaking in all sincerity.

This proposed legislation is a matter of great concern not only to the Canadian people but to parliamentarians of all political parties, and to editorial writers throughout Canada.

Seven honourable senators have thus far participated in the debate, and four of them have unequivocally stated that in a peaceful country such as ours this proposed legislation is absolutely unnecessary. Let me be the fifth one to take the same attitude for the same reasons advanced by these honourable gentlemen. Allow me to add also that were this debate to be prolonged in this house, it is my opinion that the great majority on both sides would oppose this bill, not because they are antagonistic to any identifiable group, but because they would fail to see the necessity for such legislation.

Honourable senators, since the advent of the printing press, newspapers in this country—and in any other country, for that matter—have been the ramparts against oppression and tyranny, and have always championed the cause of freedom of speech and freedom of the press. Yet, if we read the several editorials dealing with this proposed legislation, we will realize that the writers of such editorials are gravely concerned over the determination of the present Government to incorporate such legislation in our Criminal Code.