

Bill S-2 was introduced in the Senate on October 30, 1979, by Senator de Cotret on behalf of the Conservative government, and it received second reading on November 7, 1979. The bill was referred to the Standing Senate Committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce on that day but the committee never got around to considering the bill before the defeat of the government. I might say at this point that I do not know why it was referred to the Standing Senate Committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce because, in my opinion, there was no need for it to be considered by that committee.

I spoke in the debate on the motion for the second reading of Bill S-2 on November 7, 1979, as reported at pages 279-281 of *Hansard*. There is no point in my repeating what I said at that time because any interested person can look it up, but I did refer to the unethical conduct of Château-Gai Wines Limited over the years in promoting the sale of their Canadian champagne. It is my opinion that if it had not been for the really quite inexcusable conduct of that company, as disclosed in a judgment of the Quebec Superior Court delivered in December 1968, the trade agreement would have been repealed earlier than it actually was.

This is the fourth bill which has been introduced to repeal these agreements. Everything that needs to be said about it has already been said, and I suggest that it should receive quick passage without being referred to a committee.

On motion of Senator Charbonneau, debate adjourned.

● (1510)

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

MOTION FOR ADDRESS IN REPLY—DEBATE CONTINUED

The Senate resumed from yesterday consideration of His Excellency the Governor General's Speech at the opening of the First Session of the Thirty-second Parliament, and the motion of Senator Rousseau, seconded by Senator Hays, for an Address in reply thereto.

[*Translation*]

Hon. Fernand Leblanc: Honourable senators, the honour I have of sitting in this august place also carries heavy responsibilities of which I am quite aware. I will certainly make all the necessary efforts not only to feel at home and familiarize myself with the very important work being done in this house but also to try to reach the degree of perfection of my predecessors and present colleagues.

I am pleased to join all honourable senators in extending the customary congratulations to our new Speaker, the Honourable Jean Marchand, whom I had the pleasure of knowing for many years while we were both sitting in the other place. Throughout those years I was in a position to appreciate his great qualities of leadership, cordiality, sincerity and particularly dedication to the cause of the unity of this country.

As head of the "no" committee in the provincial riding of Mercier, whose elected representative since the election of 1976 is a member of the Parti Québécois, I deplore to a certain extent that the new Speaker of the Senate should be subject to

[Senator Godfrey]

certain restrictions; but since the referendum should be a non-partisan consultation, as Quebec Premier René Lévesque suggested, I do believe our Speaker will be able to continue to bring valuable co-operation to the "no" committee. We need his co-operation, that is certain. I wish him well in his new functions, particularly good health, which he will need to carry out the many tasks that fall on a Speaker of the Senate.

I also want, of course, to pay tribute to the Speaker of the Senate for the 31st Parliament, Senator Grosart. Although his reign was very short, he proved he was worthy of such an honour because he carried out his duties with control and tact.

It also gives me pleasure to pay tribute to the Honourable Senator Yvette Rousseau, the mover of the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, and the seconder the Honourable Harry Hays, for the magnificent work they did in making their speeches.

I would also be remiss if I did not immediately extend my most sincere congratulations to those honourable senators who have been called upon to be part of the cabinet. I agree entirely with the wise choice of the Right Honourable the Prime Minister.

Senator Flynn: He did not have any choice.

Senator Leblanc: I am convinced that our three senators who have been selected to be ministers will be able to carry out their duties with competence and dispatch. The polarization of the vote among Canadians is, I think, further illustration of the importance of maintaining the Senate to give the people a justified and essential representation of all regions of Canada within the government's executive branch.

Honourable senators, if I have reached such a high office, I owe it in particular to the people of the riding of Laurier who, on five different occasions, from 1964 to 1979, put their faith in me. I succeeded in the riding of Laurier the Honourable Lionel Chevrier who had replaced my father-in-law who was called to the Senate in 1953 under the government of the Right Honourable Louis St. Laurent. Most of you have known Senator Lefrançois, to whom I want to pay tribute. He would have been very proud, I am sure, of my entry into this place if God had allowed him to live to this point.

I also want to take this opportunity to extend my best wishes to my successor in the riding of Laurier, David Berger, a thirty-year-old bilingual young man who wants to devote himself entirely to public life and whose business studies and experience prepared him well for his role as the representative of Canadians in the riding of Laurier. Having known him for over a year, and consequently having learned to appreciate him, I am convinced he will have a long and fruitful career.

Honourable senators, the debate on whether to abolish or reform the Senate has grown in magnitude over the last ten years. I wish to take the opportunity afforded by my first speech in this house during the Throne Speech debate to make my humble contribution to this issue. Before going any further, I would like to thank the Library research staff, which has been of great assistance to me.