

If this bill is passed it will destroy our interprovincial trade; it will wreck confederation and this dominion of ours; so let us not hastily rush into this matter. I am not going to be a peacemaker and support the second reading of this bill. I am going to vote against it because I certainly think that section 6 presents a danger and embarrassment to the trade of Canada and will not serve any useful purpose.

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Iva C. Fallis: Honourable senators, I do not intend to delay the house, but I wish to state my position on the motion of the honourable senator from Waterloo (Hon. Mr. Euler) to give this bill the six-months' hoist. I think I can make my position clear in less than two minutes.

I am supporting the motion of the honourable member from Waterloo for two reasons. In the first place, I do not think it matters at all in connection with this bill whether or not I am in favour of the manufacture and sale of margarine. To my mind that is not the issue involved in this bill.

Hon. Mr. Euler: No, it is not.

Hon. Mrs. Fallis: In my opinion the issue is the principle of establishing, as the previous speaker so ably put it, interprovincial tariff barriers between our provinces. I am opposed to the bill for that reason alone, and I am not going into the question of margarine at all.

Any indication I might have had about this matter was completely dispelled this morning after hearing the remarks of the honourable senator from Toronto-Trinity (Hon. Mr. Roebuck) with regard to Bill 391, an Act to amend the Criminal Code. It is time the Senate took a stand about bills coming to us so late in the session, when we have only a few hours left in which to deal with them. After all, who should be the judge of how much time we in the Senate should take in dealing with legislation? I for one am prepared to stay here for another week—

Hon. Mr. Reid: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mrs. Fallis:—if there is worth-while discussion to be continued on these measures. In my sixteen years in this Senate there have been more than twenty sessions, and at the conclusion of each one we have had the same experience that we are going through now. At the conclusion of every session we have had protests and more protests, but they have never been of any avail. Nothing is ever done to improve the system, and the end of next session will be similar to the end of this one.

I am an advocate not of rushing bills through at the last minute, but of taking all the time we need to consider them. If the House of Commons happens to finish one, two or three days before we do, well and good. That has nothing to do with us.

So for the two reasons that I have stated—first, that I am opposed to the principle of the bill, which would establish provincial barriers; and secondly, that I am against important legislation being hurried through this house in the last minutes of the session—I wholeheartedly support the amendment to give this bill the six months' hoist.

Some Hon. Senators: Question.

Hon. Norman P. Lamberti: Honourable senators, I should like to make way for the taking of the vote now, but I wish to associate myself with those who are opposed to this bill, and I can do so very briefly.

A bill, like a chain, is no stronger than its weakest link; and in my opinion three clauses of the bill render it as a whole an impossible piece of legislation. It seems to me that to come to that opinion all one need do is read paragraph (b) of clause 2 of the bill—the paragraph defining “dairy product”—and apply it to clause 6. It will then be seen that if the bill is passed the government will have power to prevent me or anyone else in Ontario from importing from the neighbouring province of Quebec such products as peanut butter and maple butter—and I may say, incidentally, that a certain section of a family with which I am intimate would at any time prefer maple butter to creamery butter or margarine or anything else as a spread on bread. So that is one reason why I object to the bill.

From the broader point of view, I think that the passing by the federal parliament of a measure which in its essence is narrow class legislation, for self-centred special privilege, is contrary to every conception and principle on which our federal system was established. More than 60 per cent of the present population of this country can be described definitely as non-agricultural, people who live in urban communities and are employed by the major industries that are distinct from the industry of agriculture. The interests of all those people would be hurt by passage of this measure.

In addition, a considerable percentage of the people in the agricultural industry itself would be prejudicially affected by passage of the bill. I can speak from personal knowledge of the dairy industry, for I myself am directly interested in it in a small way; I supply all the butter and other dairy products used in my own house, and in some other houses as well. Let me say here that any—