

no apology for the attention, time and effort that has been given by the members of the Government in each of these strike instances, to do everything within their capacity to try to resolve the situation in a reasonable way. There is only so much time in the course of the day at one's disposal to work at these problems. I have seen some of my colleagues on the west coast—I do not say this to excite pity—work all day with a group of people, and fly all night in order to get back to Ottawa, then sit down again and work all that day and sometimes all of the following night, to try to reach a solution on a strike. That has happened within the last month.

Other ministers, whether of this or any other Government, are going to be faced with this kind of problem, unless we can reach a solution somehow along the lines of that which Senator Brooks would like to see reached.

In justification for what has been said about many of these strike situations, I think I am right in saying what I have said today. However, I am glad this particular bill will be referred to a committee. We shall not be investigating a strike situation.

Before leaving that aspect of the matter, I hope that the inquiry of the honourable Senator Cameron, calling the attention of the Senate to the disruptive and costly effects of strikes in services affecting the public welfare, and which Senator Farris adjourned, will be the subject matter for consideration and of speeches by many senators. Senator Farris has not been able to come here lately, but when the Senate resumes again and there is an opportunity, I hope that honourable senators will rise in their places and discuss this most important issue.

[Translation]

L'honorable M. Denis: Honorables sénateurs,—

[Text]

The Hon. the Acting Speaker: May I say that if the honourable Senator Denis speaks now, it will have the effect of closing the debate.

[Translation]

Hon. Mr. Denis: Honourable senators, I have only one word to add to the important and constructive remarks made by the honourable senators.

I also thank them for their kind words but, as I said in my opening remarks, I do not deserve much credit: the bill is very simple. May I repeat the words of the poet:

I really don't deserve
The apple-green paper

You wish to offer me;
'Tis no doing of mine
That I should feel so well.

I merely want to answer the question put to me by the honourable Leader of the Opposition, namely, why wait so long to introduce that bill? I would point out to him that the complaints to the patent office did not reach it simultaneously, when postal services were interrupted. They reached the office over a period of time. I would add that similar complaints may well be made later on, because some people, being aware that no such statute enabled them to have recourse simply waited, either to introduce a private bill, or for one to be introduced similar to the one we are now dealing with.

With regard to the matter mentioned by Senator Thorvaldson, concerning the application of this act insofar as provincial legislation is concerned, I feel that we do not have the jurisdiction required to amend that legislation. It should suffice for the provinces themselves to legislate on the matter.

[Text]

Motion agreed to and bill read second time.

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

The Hon. the Acting Speaker: Honourable senators, when shall this bill be read the third time?

Hon. Mr. Connolly (Ottawa West): Honourable senators, before the bill is referred to a committee, I wish to say that I will make arrangements for the committee to be convened tomorrow morning, subject to the availability of facilities. In any event, notices will be delivered to honourable senators' mail boxes.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Denis, bill referred to the Standing Committee on Banking and Commerce.

Motion agreed to.

BUSINESS OF THE SENATE

Hon. Mr. Connolly (Ottawa West): As honourable senators are aware, we are now waiting for the pension legislation which has been before the other house. There are but two or three clauses to be considered in committee, and the bill will be available for third reading. A supplementary budget will be presented in the House of Commons this evening at 8 o'clock. I was hopeful the bill I mentioned might have been ready this afternoon, but my hopes were not realized. If any honourable senators have any influence with friends in