

Today we have to look at this matter differently from the way in which it was viewed years ago when we were young men. In spite of the things we hear about the youth of today, it has to be admitted that the youth of today is better educated than we were when we were young, not only in mathematics, French and English, but in politics. They are better prepared to examine the problems of governments, both provincial and federal, and for that reason also they should have the right to vote.

I am sure you will all agree with me that if a young man is given a certain responsibility, in 99 cases out of 100 he will measure up to that responsibility. If young fellows of 18 years of age today are asked to consider whether they are in favour of something from a national point of view, or in favour of the government doing this, that, or the other, they will consider it more seriously and more effectively if they know they have the right to cast a vote.

We ought not to hesitate at all on this question. This proposal has been made on many occasions; it has been debated in Parliament and apparently viewed favourably, but for some reason or another it has not come about.

I assert that at the age of 18 every young man and young woman should be given the right to vote, and I hope everybody here will agree with me. In many European countries young people of 18 have the right to vote. Even in the U.S.S.R. they vote at the age of 18. I have here a whole list of countries in which the voting age is 18. If it works satisfactorily in those countries I am sure it would work in our country.

When I began I said that I did not intend to say very much, and I will not. I could speak for a long time on this subject, but what is the point? I agree that we should give our boys and girls the right to vote at the age of 18. There is nothing more to be said about it unless somebody comes up with an argument to show why they should not be given this right. I agree with it and I want everyone here to agree with what Senator Argue said yesterday. I understand he was in communication with the office of the Leader of the Opposition in the other place. I do not want you to forget that. It was the office of

the Leader of the Opposition, and not with the Leader of the Opposition. At any rate, he got the impression that the Tories, as he called them, these old Tories, were agreeable. I, as one Tory, am in complete agreement with him. I hope when it gets around to you, that you will vote for this bill.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Willis, debate adjourned.

CRIMINAL CODE (HATE PROPAGANDA)

BILL TO AMEND—SECOND READING

The Senate resumed from Tuesday, December 17, 1968, the debate on the motion of Hon. Mr. Roebuck for the second reading of Bill S-21, to amend the Criminal Code.

Hon. T. D'Arcy Leonard: Honourable senators, by way of a brief explanation, this bill was debated and came up for second reading on December 17 last. Senator Roebuck spoke to it and Senator Flynn made a few remarks. It is commonly known as the "hate bill". It has been before the Senate twice and was referred to committee, but because of prorogation once and because of dissolution the second time the bill was brought in again, and on December 17 last it received second reading.

Senator Roebuck then moved that the bill be referred to the Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs. It was then pointed out to him and to the Senate that that committee had not yet been set up under the new rules. Consequently, Senator Roebuck then moved that the order for second reading and the order of reference to the committee be rescinded. The Senate agreed, and now the committee has been set up. I think the proper procedure is for me, on behalf of Senator Roebuck, to move second reading of the bill, and then it can be referred to the committee that has now been set up.

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, as the debate has been resumed, I will again put the question on the motion originally moved by the honourable Senator Roebuck and seconded by the honourable Senator Croll.