

However, before I do that, I should like to congratulate Senator Buckwold on his speech proposing adoption of the Speech from the Throne. Senator Buckwold is a businessman of great experience, and a distinguished authority on urban affairs, having been mayor of his city, and president of the mayors' association of our country. His speech last night, as well as the speeches he has made on other occasions in this chamber, reveal him to be a man of singular capacity, and we expect from him valuable contributions to the Senate. I hasten to add that the selection of Senator Buckwold as proposer of this motion had nothing to do with his good judgment last December when the Leader of the Opposition was not present, and for a good reason.

[Translation]

I should like to tell Senator Lapointe that she has made a strong impression and to offer my most sincere congratulations for the magnificent speech she made here last night.

She clearly demonstrated her great talent and great knowledge and we are all certain that Senator Lapointe will be an asset for the Senate. I wish her great success in her new functions.

I only learned last night, by listening to Senator Lapointe's speech, that the Leader of the Opposition is a former journalist. That, to me, is quite surprising news. I now thoroughly understand why he takes in this chamber positions which I am sure a lawyer, a good lawyer like the Leader of the Opposition, could never take.

[English]

Senator Flynn made some comments about the Senate. It is not my intention to rehash the events of last December and January. I am rather surprised, for many reasons which I will not emphasize, that Senator Flynn thought it desirable to refer to those events which engaged the attention of many honourable senators, and I say this most sincerely, no one more objectively than Senator Connolly (Ottawa West) who, in the absence of Senator Hayden, performed his responsibilities as acting chairman in a manner which should have won from all honourable senators today, as it did then, our very warmest appreciation and commendation.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Martin: I should like to put on the record what the Senate did in the Third Session of Parliament, which came to an end last week. My colleague, the President of the Privy Council, on the last sitting day prior to the adjournment for Christmas, put on the record what had been accomplished in this house. I believe it would be of value for us to recall what we did in this house. At the time when the President of the Privy Council made his report, we in this chamber were debating Bill C-176, to establish the National Farm Products Marketing Council. This, therefore, is the first opportunity I have had to recall what we did here during the past session.

Honourable senators, the third session was opened on October 8, 1970, and was prorogued last week, 71 weeks later. The Senate sat in 46 of those weeks, in approximately the same number as did the other place, which sat 52 weeks. That was the first session since the early days of the Second World War to straddle three calendar years. A similarly prolonged session occurred in 1940, 1941 and 1942. The session which has just ended is the third longest in Canada's parliamentary history.

During the session we introduced a dozen government bills, eleven of which were subsequently passed by this chamber and by the other place. We received 48 government bills, chiefly money bills which had been introduced in the other place and which we dealt with and passed here. This makes a total of 59 government bills which became law during the course of that arduous session.

Six public bills introduced by members in the House of Commons were accepted by both houses. Two of our private members' bills were passed in this chamber but not by the other house, although three of our private members' bills were endorsed by both Houses of Parliament.

Some of the public bills which were introduced in the Senate and subsequently became law were the bill respecting statistics of Canada, the bill to amend the Anti-dumping Act, the bill respecting weights and measures, the bill to provide for the obtaining of information respecting weather modification activities, and the bill to amend the Copyright Act.

Honourable senators, some bills which became law in the third session have received considerable public attention. I recall in particular the Public Order Act, the Government Organization Act and the legislation on income tax reform. With regard to income tax reform legislation, the Leader of the Opposition is undoubtedly right: we did receive much criticism, particularly in the newspapers. However, we have sought to put the record right, and many newspapers have corrected even the editorial position they adopted through the inaccurate reports of our effort. That is something we will deal with in another place and at another time.

● (1510)

In addition, I might mention the passage of the Co-operative Associations Act, the Tax Review Board Act, the amendments to the Old Age Security Act, the Regional Development Incentives Act, the Export Development Act, and the Canada Shipping Act, the Textile and Clothing Board Act, the Statutory Instruments Act, the Consumer Packaging and Labelling Act, the Unemployment Insurance Act, the Pilotage Act, the Canada Development Corporation Act, and the Employment Support Act.

Three Senate bills were amended in our committees. Five of our bills were amended in the other place. We amended the Investment Companies Act, the National Environment Week Act, the Consumer Packaging and Labelling Act and the Employment Support Act, all of which were originally introduced in the other place.