

but a formality to be got through as quickly as possible, obviously, that does not reflect in a favourable way on our reason of existence. "Sober second thoughts," they say. Well, you require a little time for sober second thoughts. It seems to me that we would be subject to some criticisms, if we bowed to the pressure that is being attempted to be imposed upon us. I do not blame my honourable friend. I do not think he is doing any pressuring, but I have to tell him that he is our bulwark, and if he does not stand up to those fellows over there, I do not know what we can do about it. I promise him that, if he does take a stand, I will support him to the hilt.

With respect to the issue before us this evening, my reaction is that I do not oppose its being referred to committee tomorrow, but I think that, not having seen the bill, it is premature to come to any conclusions on how to handle it. It is particularly premature, when it is not even in our house in any official way. I propose to reserve any decisions that we may have with respect to leave, or matters of that kind, until we know more about the issue with which we are faced. I should like to reiterate that there is some disposition on all sides of the house to take this matter very seriously and to see if we cannot come to a common stand on the way in which we should treat this particular piece of legislation. If it were something relatively innocuous, there would be no reason to be overzealous in dealing with the forms of Parliament; but when it is a bill that concerns 3 million people in a wide category of different taxpayers, that is something which I want to know something about. It may well be that, in our committee, we will want to hear what people have to say. If by any chance the House of Commons amends its proposition—and that has happened before—and in the closing hours of Wednesday we receive an amended bill, where will that leave us, not having had any opportunity to consider those amendments? That may not happen this time, but it certainly has happened before with respect to tax matters, and it would be wise to take that possibility into consideration.

I thank my honourable friend for his candour in exposing the problem to us, but so far as we are concerned on this side we will wait a while before deciding what we should do.

**Senator Frith:** Honourable senators, we cannot reasonably ask for anything more than what Senator Roblin has proposed. I appreciate that he has separated the motion from the advice I gave as to the state of play. Of course, I am not asking honourable senators to do anything with the bill; I am merely letting them know in advance what the situation will be so that they can think about it and give it consideration. I ask only that we pass the motion to refer it to committee, and then give thought—

**Senator Asselin:** You are only asking that we pass the motion this evening?

**Senator Frith:** That is correct, because we do not have the bill yet, as Senator Roblin said. All I did in the second part of my exposé was to try to give honourable senators as much notice as possible, without asking them to give any undertaking at all, and, quite reasonably, Senator Roblin gave none; and I would not have expected that he should.

[Senator Roblin.]

I ask honourable senators to support the motion and simply to give consideration to the other aspects, and, hopefully, we can get together with some solutions.

**Senator Asselin:** Now we start the fight.

**Hon. Robert Muir:** Honourable senators, before we deal with the motion, may I say that Senator Roblin has spoken very eloquently, as he always does; Senator Frith has spoken eloquently, too, giving many reasons why this bill should go ahead. However, can Senator Frith give us the reasons for the government's poor planning in bringing this bill forward at this point in time, and for the house leaders in the other place saying that they are going to have 20 minutes each to debate it in the other place and then whip it through? Then, they are going to shunt it over to this place at the last minute. I do not mind staying longer than was anticipated. Senator Asselin and other honourable senators who spent years in the other place will recall getting back to our constituencies on Christmas Eve. So I am not complaining about that. However, if we proceed in this manner, the first thing we will read in the press and hear from those in the other place—not a word about how short a time they dealt with it—will be that it came to this chamber and was whistled through, that we did not discuss it thoroughly.

Cannot Senator Frith endeavour to find out why we cannot handle such business more efficiently? It seems to me that every Christmas recess, every Easter recess and every summer break the same story unfolds from the government in power. They keep saying, "Be good boys and girls in the other place and be good boys and girls in this place; put everything through in a great hurry; don't examine it thoroughly; and we will let you go home!"

I think Senator Roblin is quite correct in saying that a tremendous amount of thought has to be given to this bill, and perhaps we could bring the other place back for Royal Assent on New Year's Eve or New Year's Day. It might be in order.

**Senator Frith:** I do not think I can add anything.

Motion agreed to.

## BUSINESS OF THE SENATE

### NOTICE OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

**Hon. Royce Frith (Acting Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, the committee to which the subject matter of Bill C-2 has just been referred will be meeting at 9.30 tomorrow morning, and I had made tentative arrangements, which I can now confirm, to have the committee meet in Room 356-S. That committee also wishes to sit tomorrow afternoon, and it has arranged for the attendance of its advisors and officials from the department both tomorrow morning and tomorrow afternoon. Therefore, the chairman of the committee has asked me to ask for leave, notwithstanding rule 45(1)(a), to move:

That the Standing Senate Committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce have power to sit while the Senate