

We did not know at all what it was about. They were numbers 294 to 327. And then the bills were given second reading.

I read from *Hansard*:

THE HON. THE SPEAKER: Honourable senators, when shall these bills be read the second time?

HON. MR. ROEBUCK: With leave of the Senate, I move that these bills be read the second time now.

I was here but I said nothing. Continuing:

Motion agreed to and bills read second time, on division.

One of my colleagues said, "On division". It was the only thing that was said, and he did not know what it was about.

Then we proceed a few lines further—on the same page, mark you, honourable senators,—and the bills were given third reading. I read:

THE HON. THE SPEAKER: Honourable senators, when shall these bills be read the third time?

HON. MR. ROEBUCK: With leave of the Senate, I move that the bills be read the third time now.

Motion agreed to and bills read third time and passed, on division.

I was here; I said nothing. I saw all this, and it went on so quickly it was like a film that was shown too fast. It did not break the sound barrier but it broke the decorum barrier.

Afterwards, to my great surprise, the day after, when I held this *Hansard* in my hand I found the titles of the bills, and that for the first time—the day after they were passed. Then I saw in the *Minutes of the Proceedings of the Senate* the reports of the Senate committee, which had been lying on the table and of which I knew nothing at all. I find that it is not reasonable.

Now, honourable senators, we are inclined to sympathize with the Chairman of the Divorce Committee because he has a heavy weight on his shoulders. I agree. Many times have I said in the house that the work of the members of the Senate Divorce Committee was praiseworthy. But today it is not a question of being for or against divorce in principle; the question is whether we shall have some decorum in the house, whether we should know what we are debating. Whether we should know or not, we should at least have the titles of the bills. Imagine any senator after that sitting was over, after we had adopted the committee reports, passed 33 bills on first, second and third reading, being

asked, "What have you done?" The answer is, "We have passed a certain number of divorce bills."

For the punishment of all of us, those bills were sent to the House of Commons and they were stopped there. They did not pass. It was to punish all of us individually. It was the punishment of Parliament for showing such, I will say, celerity in passing that legislation.

I appeal to you, honourable colleagues, and I ask you, do you find it sensible and reasonable? Perhaps nobody thought of it. We were at the end of the session; the session was to conclude at any moment, and that was it. Some members had gone home.

The new president of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce—I do not remember the gentleman's name—made a speech which was reported in the press in which he said that the great evil of our times is the indifference of all the people to what is going on. I am not the one who said that; it was said by the new president of the Chamber of Commerce.

We will turn now to what has been happening yesterday and today. I have in my hand the *Minutes of the Proceedings of the Senate of Canada* for yesterday, October 17. Yesterday, honourable senators, the same thing was going to happen. There were several piles of reports on the table and nobody knew what they were about; they were to pass innocuously.

I do not attribute the blame for this practice to anyone else. I was just as wrong as any one of my colleagues; I was indifferent, as the president of the Chamber of Commerce said. Afterwards I felt a deep remorse in my heart and in my soul, and I said if I can protest against such a practice I will take the first opportunity to do so. As this present session is just starting I am doing it now, and I appeal to the new senators and to my old colleagues for their support in this matter. We can do something good for the Senate. The Senate could be all powerful, provided that we followed the rules of parliamentary practice.

Now let us come back to what happened yesterday. In this book there are 121 pages, containing the minutes of the sitting of yesterday which lasted about two hours.

On page 92 of the Senate *Hansard* of yesterday the honourable senator from Toronto-Trinity (Hon. Mr. Roebuck) said:

As honourable senators will observe, these 305 reports are on the table for any honourable senator to read who wishes to do so.

It was very generous of him. In the third column of his speech he said:

I can assure the house that each one of these 305 cases has been examined and