

Hon. Mr. BEAUBIEN: I may say to my right honourable friend that he has always attributed political motives to those who are not of his own party.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: I was attributing them to my own party this time. The honourable senator's logic is not improving with the years.

Hon. J. W. de B. FARRIS: Honourable senators, I should like to say a word with particular reference to the suggestion of the right honourable the leader opposite about imposing penalties during the last days of the session; and I hope the honourable senator from Winnipeg South-Centre (Hon. Mr. Haig) will again voice his views, as he has so often done, about the difficulties which confront senators from the West, especially those from the far West. I came down here, and on one occasion I waited from a Thursday, all through the next week and until Tuesday of the following week, without having anything to do. I am not used to idleness of that kind in working days. It is very disturbing, particularly when one realizes that in other places there is work to be done.

I do not know what the solution of the problem may be. We must face the fact that the public do not realize the true situation. Often we see in the papers, "The Senate did not sit to-day." The fact is overlooked that there are 96 senators and 245 members of the House of Commons, and we must in some way put in enough time to allow those 245 to talk not only about the merits of bills, but sometimes, a listener might feel, for other reasons as well. From my experience in this Chamber I am sure that honourable senators as a whole are capable of discussing public questions on their merits. I think some system ought to be devised whereby, when they have accomplished that task, which is all the public have a right to expect of them, they would not be required to spend indeterminate hours kicking their heels while discussion is going on in the other House.

Hon. Mr. HAIG: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. FARRIS: I suggest these points should be taken into consideration if the right honourable leader on the other side (Right Hon. Mr. Meighen) consults with the honourable leader of the House (Hon. Mr. Dandurand) about providing for penalties.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: I am thoroughly conscious of the fact that attendance, especially at the end of a session,

weighs more heavily upon honourable members who come from a distance than upon those who live nearby, as I do. But the consequences of leaving the important work of the final days to a few senators are equal for us all, and I earnestly urge that whatever is necessary to assure attendance at the end of a session should be done. I do not know of anything which looks worse than a slim Senate dealing with big affairs at a time when the whole interest of the country is concentrated on this Parliament.

The motion was agreed to.

The Senate adjourned during pleasure.

The Senate resumed at 5.15 p.m.

CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD BILL

FIRST READING

A message was received from the House of Commons with Bill 118, an Act to amend the Canadian Wheat Board Act, 1935.

The Bill was read the first time.

SECOND READING

Hon. RAOUL DANDURAND: Honourable senators, I cannot say what principle or principles are involved in this measure, and I would suggest that before expressing our views on the Bill itself we give it second reading and refer it to the Committee on Banking and Commerce for Monday afternoon. I shall have in attendance the experts and, if necessary, one of my colleagues, who may be examined and give us some explanations, so that when the Bill is reported from committee many points not clear to us now will have been clarified. Then we could discuss the Bill on the motion for third reading. If that is satisfactory, I will move second reading now.

Right Hon. ARTHUR MEIGHEN: Honourable members, I have no objection at all to the proposal, but it might be worth while to offer a few comments on the Bill, directing attention to the feature that to my mind needs explanation.

As everyone knows, under the Canadian Wheat Board Act of 1935 control of wheat marketing is virtually taken by the Canadian Wheat Board, a Government organization. The wheat covered by the Act has been the wheat of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. As everyone also knows, the purchase price set by the board, doubtless with Government approval, was 70 cents, on the basis of No. 1 Northern wheat. There was an advisory committee to advise the board, the committee consisting of seven mem-