

think that the money is as good to me on November 1 as it would be on March 1. In any event, the final payments have come out from the previous crop year around February 1. The main feature of this bill is that the producers will know where they stand, and under this legislation payments will come more readily in the future.

Senator Bielish said that certain costs are not taken into account. Well, some of these costs are taken into account because they are operating costs such as fuel costs, herbicide costs, repairs and so on. It is correct that interest rates are not taken into account; it is correct that capital depreciation is not taken into account. The argument is that you should not encourage the producer unnecessarily to buy a lot of farm machinery because it will be used as an expense item under this bill. The main problem is created by the interest costs, and the so-called experts in the banking system—the deep thinkers—said to the producers five or six years ago that they should expand their land, borrow money from the banks in order to buy more land. The producers said “the banks must know what they are doing so we will follow them.” They expanded, bought more land, had more mortgages to pay and the interest rates went up. This bill does not provide for the inclusion of interest costs and I think there is an argument for that, but in a sense it does not matter whether you provide for them or not. The main point is that you have to tailor the legislation so that when the farmer puts in his money and the government matches it and at some time the farmer needs it, then the farmer will get his payments. I think that is what we are endeavouring to do in introducing this legislation. It is a vast improvement compared with what we have had up to now. I do not apologize for the slowness with which it came to Parliament because, as you will see, whether we received the bill and passed it today, or whether we had received and passed it two or four months ago, the earliest the final payment for this year can be made is November 1. Therefore, we are right on target in getting it done.

Motion agreed to and bill read second time.

**The Hon. the Speaker:** Honourable senators, when shall this bill be read the third time?

**Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, we have been following the practice of not abridging the rules for third reading if there is no particular reason to do so such as Royal Assent. We do not have Royal Assent planned for today, so I think we should follow the “Flynn formula,” as we have come to call it, and, accordingly, I move that the bill be placed on the Orders of the Day for third reading at the next sitting of the Senate.

Motion agreed to.

### CANADA LABOUR CODE FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION ACT

BILL TO AMEND—SECOND READING

On the Order:

[Senator Argue.]

Resuming the debate on the motion of the Honourable Senator Marsden, seconded by the Honourable Senator Sinclair, for the second reading of Bill C-34, intituled: “An Act to amend the Canada Labour Code and the Financial Administration Act”.—(*Honourable Senator Muir*).

**Hon. Robert Muir:** Honourable senators, I should like to take this opportunity to say a few words on Bill C-34. Before doing so, I should like to express my commendation and best wishes to Senator Marsden who delivered a clear, concise explanation of the bill. You could hear her throughout the chamber. She did not mumble; she spoke in perfect English, and she knew what she was talking about which I think is very important. In many democracies, and in many parliamentary institutions whether Senates, Houses of Commons or Congress, so many people do not know what they are talking about. That happens on occasion even in my own case. In any event, she spoke eloquently. She spoke of the amendments and changes that had been made, the co-operation of the Official Opposition and the NDP; she spoke about safety and health, the conscience clause, religious convictions, the Rand formula and so on. However, you are going to be disappointed if I continue in that vein as you are not used to hearing me being so kind. It is really out of character.

**Hon. Jacques Flynn (Leader of the Opposition):** You are weakening!

**Senator Muir:** Am I getting mellow? Oh, no.

My first comments on this bill are in the nature of a complaint. There are those in the other place who complained that the bill was introduced at the last minute and with even greater justification we make the same complaint. It seems so unusual that when governments of whatever stripe have an adjournment, an Easter recess or a Christmas recess they then start pouring in the legislation saying: “You be good boys and girls. Get this legislation through and we will let you go back home.” I do not think that that is our role here. We should deal as best we can in a proper way with the legislation we receive.

The government has talked about this type of legislation since 1981. It has taken over three years to deliver itself of quite significant but somewhat flawed legislation.

● (1530)

This bill was given first reading in the other place on May 15; but the debate on second reading did not commence until June 11, and that lasted only a few hours. Of course, the bill was then referred to committee, and the committee did a little better than the house in that it considered the bill over several meetings.

It is not because organized labour or the Public Service Alliance, in particular, is eager and anxious to see legislation passed that members of Parliament—and in that term I include senators—should abdicate their responsibilities. Worthy as these causes may be, I think time should be taken to go into all the phases and facets of any legislation. Bill C-34 is 55 pages long and contains 42 clauses, and I do not think it