

It is conceivable, of course, that some bills or resolutions of importance to the Government may be of such major concern to the appropriate minister or to the Government itself, or be matters of major Government policy, that everyone would consider it reasonable that the ministers or the government of the day should feel it more appropriate to introduce them in the other place, and that the ministers should speak to them in their own house. In this session, for example, there has been introduced in the other place a number of such measures which, technically speaking, could have been introduced here. For example, the bill to amend the Bank Act—the decennial revision of the Bank Act—was introduced in the other place. It could have been introduced here, and some honourable senators with very good reason have suggested that it would have been a good thing had it been introduced here.

**Hon. Mr. McCutcheon:** Was not that a money bill?

**Hon. Mr. Connolly (Ottawa West):** No, it was not.

**Hon. Mr. McCutcheon:** It was introduced by resolution.

**Hon. Mr. Connolly (Ottawa West):** I think not. Perhaps that bears checking. If it falls within the other category then I stand corrected. I will have it looked up. But the bill to extend the time for consideration of objections pursuant to section 20 of the Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act was certainly not a money bill in the strict sense of the word. It was introduced in the other place. The bill to amend the Combines Investigation Act and the Criminal Code was not a money bill, but it was introduced in the other place because it was thought to be important enough for the minister concerned to deal with it there.

The bill to amend the Financial Administration Act, which was dealt with here earlier, was introduced in the other place, and it did not have implicit financial implications. I might say that there are cases in which the dividing line between strictly money bills and those which are not is sometimes hard to find.

I desire to draw the attention of this house to the fact that Senator Farris on an earlier occasion this session dealt particularly with Rule 18A of the Senate which permits ministers who are members of the House of Commons to come here, if they so desire, to

introduce a measure. This device has been used on five different occasions. The Honourable Lionel Chevrier did it twice, and the Honourable Brooke Claxton, the Honourable Stuart Garson and the late Honourable Gordon Bradley each did it once. This may be a useful device on occasion, but I am sure all honourable senators like to think that the practice that has grown up here whereby members of the Senate, regardless of the political persuasion of the government in office, take the responsibility of sponsoring public legislation introduced here, is a good practice. If I may say so, this work has been done particularly well by members of this chamber who have assumed that responsibility. I would like to go further, honourable senators, and say that during this session a number of new senators have demonstrated their willingness to take that responsibility, a responsibility that they discharged with honour to themselves and to the Senate.

I should like to point out also that while we may not take advantage of Rule 18A often, it does happen in many cases that when a bill is sponsored by either myself as the Leader of the Government in the Senate or on my behalf and on behalf of the Government by an honourable senator, that bill goes to a committee where we have an opportunity of hearing directly from the minister. My honourable friend Senator Hayden, the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Banking and Commerce, has presided over many sittings of his committee at which ministers have been present to explain bills in which they were involved.

The onus of starting government bills in this chamber is primarily one that is upon the shoulders of the Government, but I think, in a certain sense, it is an onus that falls also upon the Leader of the Government in the Senate, particularly when he is a member of the Cabinet. He does this because of his membership in the legislation committee of the Cabinet as well as his membership in the Cabinet itself. For the record, and for the information not only of the new senators but of all of us, it is interesting to note that in my 13 years here—and when I was appointed to the Senate the Honourable W. Ross Macdonald was the Leader of the Government—there have been 110 public bills introduced in this chamber.

There is another category of bill which qualifies for introduction here because of a Canadian practice and a background of Canadian precedent. These are bills which