

and the very slow progress made in the hearing of them. Honourable senators, justice delayed is justice denied. We in this country live by the rule of law. We will not allow the individual to take the law into his own hands. Having so provided, it is our duty to see to it that our courts administer justice impartially, effectively and promptly.

I do not know what we can do about it just at the moment. I commend the acting Leader of the Opposition for the information he has presented to us, and I have no doubt that the honourable Leader of the Government will bring this to the attention of the Minister of Justice. It may be that if the Minister of Justice expresses a vigorous protest, the attorneys-general will do something towards improving the administration of justice in the provinces.

Hon. John J. Connolly: Honourable senators—

The Hon. the Speaker: I must inform honourable senators that if the honourable Senator Connolly (Ottawa West) speaks now, it will have the effect of closing the debate.

Hon. Mr. Connolly: Honourable senators, I thank honourable Senators Choquette and Roebuck for the contribution they have made to the debate this afternoon. There is no doubt whatever about the truth of the remarks they have made. The problem of dealing with the backlog of cases in the courts has been engaging the attention of attorneys-general for many, many years, as Senator Roebuck has said. I know too that this subject has engaged the attention not only of the Canadian Bar Association but of the provincial bar associations. What honourable senators have said here today points up the problem in another form, and in a very effective way. I shall certainly undertake to bring these remarks to the attention of the Attorney General of Canada in the hope that in a spirit of co-operation there will be adequate and remedial action taken. Regrettably, I cannot give an assurance that it will be taken in time to obviate the necessity of appointing additional judges before a real remedy is provided.

I think that the Province of Ontario has moved quite effectively in this area within the last few years by providing an enlarged jurisdiction for the county courts. The honourable Senators Choquette and Roebuck, both of whom are members of the Ontario Bar and do not purport to speak for the position in Quebec, have indicated that the county court system which prevails in the other provinces does not obtain in Quebec. However, there may be a remedy there, too.

It is for the provincial authorities to apply the remedy that they think best, and perhaps it is not too much to hope that the attorney-

general could urge the authorities there, and indeed in other provinces, to see to it that some appropriate remedy be taken.

Hon. Mr. Choquette: One question was asked by Senator Roebuck. Do we know where these county court judges are in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Connolly (Ottawa West): I regret I do not have that information. There may be a list. Some of them may be what are called roving judges who would not be attached to a specific county. I can get that information and give it to Senator Roebuck.

Motion agreed to and bill read second time.

THIRD READING

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

Hon. Mr. Connolly (Ottawa West): With leave, I move that the bill be read the third time now.

Motion agreed to and bill read third time and passed.

COMBINES INVESTIGATION ACT

BILL TO AMEND AN ACT TO AMEND—FIRST READING

The Hon. the Speaker informed the Senate that a message had been received from the House of Commons with Bill C-141, to amend an Act to amend the Combines Investigation Act.

Bill read first time.

SECOND READING

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

Hon. Daniel A. Lang, with leave of the Senate, moved the second reading of the bill.

He said: Honourable senators, this is in fact an act to amend an act to amend the Combines Investigation Act and the Criminal Code. I am assured that that title is not a misprint by the Queen's Printer. It is in fact a bill amending the original act of 1959, which in turn amended those two statutes. It is a short bill and I shall attempt to be very brief in outlining its provisions to you this afternoon.

In 1959, upon the complaint of certain citizens of this country, the Director of Investigation of the Restrictive Trade Practices Commission initiated an inquiry into the fishing industry of British Columbia. He subsequently submitted, under the provisions of the Combines Investigation Act, his statement