

**Hon. Mr. Connolly (Ottawa West):** It was in the editorials. It was certainly in comments of the professional associations and of the business community. It was thought to be such an improvement over the White Paper that it was really...

**Hon. Mr. Flynn:** I think you hear what you wish to hear.

**Hon. Mr. Connolly (Ottawa West):** No, indeed; I think this is so and I do give the minister credit for daring to listen to the committees as he did.

Nonetheless, one must remember that the importance of this legislation is very great indeed. When one considers the volume of material available in connection with the Income Tax Act, the many thousands of court decisions, the jurisprudence, the rulings issued by the departments, the interpretations, the precedents, the writings and speeches of experts, it is realized that the field of taxation is very complicated, difficult and, indeed, impinges upon not only the individual but on all corporate economic activity in the country.

The bill is not only voluminous, it is complicated. If Parliament is to make an intelligent assessment of it, parliamentarians first of all must understand it. To understand it they must study it. The bill is to come into effect at the end of this year and it would be impossible for the House of Commons to deal with the matter in the normal course and pass it on to us for approval. It would reach the Senate in the dying days of the session, before the Christmas adjournment and we could not possibly give it any kind of consideration. We could hold it over to another session; we have that authority or veto power. However, I do not consider that to be a desirable exercise to contemplate. Senator Hayden suggests in this regard that the rules of Parliament be used with ingenuity. He is making the parliamentary process adaptable. He is making it come alive. He is making it serve the country, and he is allowing us and Parliament to get around the dead letter of the law.

Senator Hayden has referred to precedents. Certainly there is a very clear precedent which is to be found in the *Journals of the Senate* of December 12, 1945, at page 361. I may interject here to say that at that time bills arising out of the budget were sent as a practice to the Finance Committee rather than to the Banking and Commerce Committee, but that practice has been changed. This precedent reads:

On motion, it was

Ordered, That the Standing Committee on Finance be authorized to examine and consider certain Bills based on the Budget Resolutions in advance of the said Bills reaching the Senate.

This wording has almost been literally employed in the motion we are now considering.

There is another precedent too. There have been chronic complaints over the years in the Senate with respect to the way in which we have been called upon to deal with appropriation bills which reach us late. These bills are based on the main Estimates and the supplement-

tary Estimates, and year after year senators would complain that there was never an opportunity to give adequate consideration to these bills. The remedy was provided by this house itself a number of years ago. The practice we adopted was that upon tabling the main Estimates and the supplementary Estimates they were referred immediately to our Finance Committee for study and report. Therefore, through this device every senator had an opportunity to examine both the main and the supplementary Estimates and to question any item that he desired to question. Our study was made before the bill arrived here, with the result that no senator could be heard to complain about the fact that he was not given an opportunity to discuss items which were in the Estimates and upon which the bill touched. I can remember Senator McCutcheon often coming into the house with appropriation bills and referring to evidence that was given before the Finance Committee on matters about which he had complained, and about which in some cases he was still complaining. The point is that he had had an opportunity to examine the Estimates, or any particular item in the Estimates, and to make a responsible contribution to the appropriation bill.

Honourable senators, I think this is a desirable and an ingenious initiative. It is a good step and well supported by our precedents.

**Hon. David Walker:** Honourable senators, Senator Connolly (Ottawa West) has really made the point that I had in mind. If the chairman of our Banking, Trade and Commerce Committee had not taken the initiative the committee would never have had the opportunity of examining this voluminous bill. How often have we received legislation which has been delayed in the House of Commons and which arrives here too late for us to give it full consideration? It may be that the other place is anxious to adjourn. By doing this at the opening of the session the House of Commons will come to look forward day by day to the deliberations of our committee. They really do look to this committee for enlightenment on bills of this kind. Without being political at all, I would like to pay my tribute to the greatest chairman this committee has ever had, the honourable Senator Hayden.

**Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear.

**Hon. Mr. Walker:** When my leader jokingly suggests that perhaps we did not receive much credit for the gargantuan work done in the White Paper I know he is only spoofing, because wherever I have gone across Canada and wherever I have met people who have discussed this matter they said they were tremendously impressed by the work of the Senate on that White Paper.

**Hon. Mr. Flynn:** I was talking about the bill; not the report.

**Hon. Mr. Walker:** Of course, the White Paper was a shocking thing and it was not hard to criticize it, but was it not a good thing to have this committee of our house take on that task? All I hope is that nothing will prevent the chairman of this committee from going on with his