

**Hon. Mr. Choquette:** I stand corrected, but I do say that after the committee was through with the famous hate literature bill the chairman said: "I think we can now dispose of the other one, and do it quite rapidly." I say that no invitation was sent out. There are people and organizations—and we have heard evidence of this here—who would have liked to appear before the committee. These people had not been heard, and had been refused a hearing before the committee of the other place.

Were I the type of person who is given to unkind remarks, I might be tempted to point to the cataclysmic dichotomy which exists between what some people say and what they do, and conclude that the divergence was born of duplicity. However, a remark such as that might only serve to revivify an acerbity that has long since atrophied through disuse. Suffice it to say that Grits have conveniently cloudy memories.

If the action taken by the Liberal senator who chairs the Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs is an example of what he meant in his article when he said of the Senate—

The purpose of the institution is excellent. It is to give a sober second thought to legislative proposals by men of exceptional experience chosen for their knowledge and standing in the community and their ability and maturity.

—then I fear I must assume the role of instructor and presume to inform him that his behaviour on Wednesday was not at all in keeping with what John A. Macdonald had in mind when he said that the Senate had a duty to have "a sober second thought in legislation."

I am sure ineffable pressures must have been brought to bear against him by high ranking proponents of the "Just Society" and "extended dialogue with the people." I should have thought that in his wisdom he would not have allowed himself to be intimidated. Because he shamefully acquiesced to the demands of the powers that be, that this bill be rammed through the Senate without delay, he has permitted himself to be used as a weapon in the endless war of attrition against the Upper Chamber. The Government has, by ordering this bill to be passed with more celerity than rationality, demonstrated its contempt for the Upper Chamber. Only people who look upon us with disdain would have the unmitigated gall to suggest that we

rubber-stamp a bill. Yet this is what happened, and the government side of this chamber was a party to it. I do not know whether to attribute the disgraceful behaviour of the Grits of the Senate to lack of fortitude or perspicacity. I suppose it is possible that they were incapable of fathoming the ramified and disastrous effects of their behaviour.

I had intended at this juncture to make a plea to the government side of this chamber that on a bill such as C-150, which involves matters of conscience, they follow our example by calling off the Whip and allowing a free vote. I had planned to ask this, but I have somehow begun to suspect that this would only serve to compound the collective Grit humiliation. I see very little in the way of reaction from the government side that would lead me to conclude that more than just a few have renewed acquaintance with their intestinal fortitude to the extent that they would want to vote as their heart and mind directs and not as the party dictates.

Honourable senators, in the early 'thirties, when I was just a beginner at the Bar, I heard the Honourable R. B. Bennett state emphatically that this country would become prosperous only when its population attained the figure of 50 million people. I never dreamed that 35 or so years later a government would be in power to stop the birth rate and to encourage murder.

Recently I received a letter from the principal of a Catholic separate school, who is still naive enough to have confidence in this chamber. The letter, dated June 9, 1969 reads:

Dear Senator Choquette:

Your views, as expressed in the Ottawa Journal during the past week on the subject of abortion, gives one some hope for the future of our nation.

If the elders—senators—in our nation's government have not the wisdom and prudence to sanction just laws, what will become of mankind?

Congratulations, and stand firm.

Yours truly,

Sister Mary Josephine.

I will write thanking the principal of the school for her congratulations on my stand, but I will add that in this chamber one only on the government side had the courage of his convictions and sat down when the others stood up to be counted, while on our side we did what we always do, we gave them three or four votes, no matter whether we are outnumbered two to one. I will write those who