

the Province of Quebec are their own business and not the business of anybody else. I do not think my honourable friend is warranted in talking of separation because the Province of Quebec thinks that the government of Canada should pass a law which protects provincial interests in respect of something on which it has the right to legislate. If Quebec were separated and became an independent country, and thereby cut off from the rest of Canada, it might be that the other provinces would suffer. We do not wish for separation any more than the Province of Ontario or any other part of Canada; neither do we like to be told, every time we claim what is our right, that we want to separate from the rest of Canada. We have no desire for separation, but we believe that our rights should be respected, and that we should be entitled to talk about them without being accused of separatism.

Hon. Mr. Hardy: Is this a debate on the dairy products of Canada, or on whether we should have separation or not?

Hon. Mr. Dupuis: This arose from a question by the honourable senator from Toronto-Trinity (Hon. Mr. Roebuck).

Hon. Mr. Bouffard: My honourable friend is quite right. But I do not think the honourable senator from Toronto-Trinity wished to say or do anything offensive to the Province of Quebec. If he was looking for an expression of opinion, I think I have given it to him, and I think I have voiced therein the views of the majority of the people of Quebec. If we do not want to be antagonized, neither do we try to antagonize anyone. But I think we should be able to discuss a bill of this kind without being told that the Province of Quebec, because it has prohibited the sale of margarine within its boundaries, does not want to co-operate with the rest of Canada.

Hon. Mr. Roebuck: My question did not involve any charge against the Province of Quebec. My question implied that it was implicit in the argument of my honourable friend. I did not accuse the Province of Quebec of anything of the kind. It was my friend's argument, not the Province of Quebec, which I suggested was separatist.

Hon. Mr. Dupuis: Honourable senators, I wish to add my views on this subject.

Hon. Mr. Bouffard: I have not finished, but I shall not be long.

Section 6 of the bill does not prevent interprovincial commerce. It is a clause whereby the federal government, as I have stated, will have the right to protect any valid legislation of any province of Canada with respect to margarine, and not only

Quebec, but Prince Edward Island has such legislation. So far as substitutes for dairy products are concerned, there may be six or seven provinces which will have legislation similar to that of Quebec. We in Quebec feel it is important that legislation shall be passed to protect the valid legislation of any Canadian province, and that nobody should make this a matter of reproach or try to obstruct the passage of legislation which is necessary and valid. If there is anybody in any province, whether Quebec, Ontario, or elsewhere, who wants to export into another province a product which that province has prohibited by law, dominion legislation which prevents such an operation is, in my opinion, good and commendable; and that is my view of the present bill.

Hon. Mr. Euler: May I ask the honourable senator from Grandville (Hon. Mr. Bouffard) if he will say that the purpose of the bill is what he now implies it to be.

Hon. Mr. Bouffard: From what I know of it that is the purpose of the bill.

Hon. Mr. Euler: The bill does not say so.

Hon. Mr. Bouffard: No. It is impossible to set out everything in a bill. That is why I say that my honourable friend from Waterloo should let the bill be referred to committee, where those who have written the bill and introduced it can be heard. I am sure the honourable gentleman does not want anybody in Ontario to violate the laws of Quebec, Manitoba or Saskatchewan in respect of margarine. If my honourable friend will let the bill go to committee, and if its purpose is not explained to his satisfaction, he can then vote against it in part or in toto. I intend to vote in favour of the bill being referred to committee.

Hon. Ray Pettien: Honourable senators, I thought I had long ago lost my capacity for being surprised, but I must confess that I have been very much surprised in this chamber this afternoon. I came here having heard by the grapevine, as most honourable senators have also been informed, that we were in the closing hours of this session of parliament. In addition to being surprised I have passed through the gamut of various emotions—amusement at my own efforts to attract the attention of His Honour the Speaker, alarm as the various speakers have pointed out the pros and cons of this bill, and finally determination to ask at least one question if at all humanly possible. I have prepared a lovely speech containing nothing to which anybody could possibly object; but do not be alarmed honourable senators, the time is so short I have not the slightest intention now of delivering it. There is, however, one question