

the work of the last hundred years will be presented here when we return to Parliament in the autumn. He will prepare these reports during the recess.

I thought honourable senators would like to know of the progress that we have made.

Reports adopted.

### CANADA ELECTIONS ACT (AGE OF VOTERS)

BILL TO AMEND—MOTION FOR THIRD READING

**Hon. Hazen Argue:** Honourable senators, I have checked and I feel that under the rules I have the right to move third reading of this bill. Therefore, I now move that Bill S-24, an Act to amend the Canada Elections Act (Age of Voters), be now read a third time.

**The Hon. the Speaker:** It is moved by the honourable Senator Argue, seconded by the honourable Senator Sparrow, that this bill be now read the third time. Is it your pleasure, honourable senators, to adopt the motion?

**Hon. Mr. Argue:** Honourable senators, I was pleased that the Senate saw fit yesterday to give this bill second reading. I think it marks a milestone, at least for many years, in the passage of a public bill in this house standing in the name of a private member. I believe the last time such a bill was passed by the Senate was back in 1951, when one was passed standing in the name of Senator Euler, to amend the Dairy Products Act of the day, in order to initiate the final legalizing of the sale of margarine.

Of course, this bill has not yet passed the Senate; it has passed second reading and is now being debated on third reading. However, I believe that if one can gauge the mood of senators by the speeches that have been made on second reading, the Senate would wish to pass this bill and send it to the House of Commons. It will then be the duty of the Government to deal with the measure by letting it stand, by passing it, or by sending it to a committee that has already been established to deal with amendments to the Elections Act. It is my hope that the Senate itself will not kill this bill by failing to deal with it during this session.

Honourable senators, I submit that the only way to deal with this bill effectively is to pass it before the Senate adjourns for the recess. It will do the Senate good to pass this measure and send it to the House of Commons. The House of Commons can then, as we would expect it to do, take the responsibility of deciding what to do with it.

I hope that the leadership of the Government in the Senate will not find it necessary to send this bill to a committee. This measure has been before this house for a long time, and the subject has been discussed by the public at length. The wise course for the Senate is to pass this bill, and send it to the House of Commons.

MOTION IN AMENDMENT—REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

**Hon. Leopold Langlois:** Honourable senators, I move that this bill be not now read the third time, but that it be referred to the Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs.

**Hon. Mr. Argue:** Guillotine!

**Hon. Mr. Prowse:** Will the honourable senator permit a question?

**The Hon. the Speaker:** I shall first put the motion in amendment.

Honourable senators, it is moved by the honourable Senator Argue, seconded by the honourable Senator Sparrow, that this bill be now read the third time.

In amendment, it is moved by the honourable Senator Langlois, seconded by the honourable Senator Gouin, that this bill be not now read the third time, but that it be referred to the Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs.

Is it your pleasure, honourable senators, to adopt the motion in amendment?

**Hon. Mr. Langlois:** Honourable senators, I have always felt that this bill was a very important piece of legislation. My opinion in this regard has been reinforced by the many excellent speeches that have been made so far on the subject in this chamber. I wish to pause here and warmly congratulate the sponsor of this bill (Hon. Mr. Argue) and all those who have participated in this very interesting debate.

As honourable senators will recall, before the Orders of the Day were called yesterday I made a brief statement on the agenda for the day, underlining the fact that it had been arranged so as to permit two important committees to meet as scheduled during the afternoon, with a minimum of interference with the dispatch of public business here. I then pointed out that the Special Committee of the Senate on Science Policy and the Standing Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs were to meet at 4 p.m., and at the same time I expressed the hope that we would complete