

and agencies of the federal Government and by all provinces except Ontario, which has since launched a wide inquiry of its own; and further, that the 50 voluntary organizations and groups of older people, which appeared or sent in briefs, are situated in different parts of the country and represent not only the fields of health and welfare, but such varied interests as religion, education, business and labour.

What the Senate committee has accomplished in the brief period of its existence must by any reasonable standard be regarded as impressive. It has assembled a body of fact and opinion about the situation of older people on a scale never before attempted in Canada, and its printed evidence, running to some 2,000 pages, will undoubtedly serve as a source of information on the subject for many years to come. Also, the very nature of its inquiry, involving as it has the co-operation of governments at all levels and a wide variety of citizen organizations, has served to direct public attention to the problem of aging and in some instances has already stimulated constructive action.

The committee has now entered the third stage of its inquiry, which is that of sifting the evidence received and preparing its final report. How long this stage will take, it is difficult to estimate. I would remind you that the Ontario Legislature Select Committee on Aging considers three years the minimum time necessary to bring its work to a conclusion, and that a committee appointed by the Saskatchewan Government in 1960 took more than three years to complete a similar study.

Our study is now completed. We began in October 1963 and concluded in December 1964—a little over a year.

The genuine interest of the committee members is attested by their faithful attendance, often at great inconvenience and during periods when the Senate was not in session. The over-all attendance was excellent.

The members brought to the subject not only their interest but both breadth and depth of knowledge and experience. The committee membership included doctors, lawyers, farmers, housewives and businessmen. They were drawn from all ten provinces and were well acquainted with rural as well as urban life.

The Deputy Chairman, the Honourable J. Campbell Haig, and I wish particularly to thank the Steering Committee, made up of Senator Quart, Senator Fergusson and Senator Lefrançois. They were always available to us and their co-operation was forthcoming.

Your committee will continue to push forward with all possible speed, but it would be a mistake to minimize the considerable dis-

tance we have yet to go before a carefully considered report can be submitted to this house.

PRIVILEGE

CANADIAN FLAG DEBATE—WITHDRAWAL OF REMARKS

Hon. David J. Walker: Mr. Speaker and honourable senators, may I rise on a question of privilege.

In the heat of the debate the other day I made some remarks about the honourable Senator Roebuck. I was surprised afterwards to read the report of my remarks, and I would ask permission of the house to withdraw those remarks and to express my regret to the honourable senator for any pain those remarks may have caused him. After all, I must not forget that I am not in the other place, where I used to love the cut and thrust of debate. This is the house of sober second thought. Also, as Senator Power has said, it is the house of good will, and this is the season for good will. I trust you will grant this request.

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, has the honourable senator leave to withdraw the words mentioned?

Hon. Senators: Agreed.

CANADIAN FLAG

MOTION FOR DESIGNATION OF NATIONAL EMBLEM—DEBATE CONCLUDED

The Senate resumed from yesterday the adjourned debate on the motion of honourable Senator O'Leary (Carleton), in amendment to the motion of the honourable Senator Connolly (Ottawa West):

That this house do recommend to the Government that such steps as may be necessary be taken to have designated as the National Flag of Canada a red flag of the proportions two by length and one by width, containing in its centre a white square, the width of the flag bearing a single maple leaf, or in heraldic terms, described as *gules on a Canadian pale argent a maple leaf of the first*.

Hon. George S. White: Honourable senators, my first words are congratulations to the Leader of the Government (Hon. Mr. Connolly, Ottawa West), on the fine and appropriate manner in which he introduced this motion. The Canadian historical background he gave and presented was both interesting and instructive.

I would also like to offer my congratulations to my colleague, Senator O'Leary (Carleton), for his magnificent speech. While