

the Senate in time to meet the deadline that the government appears to have set. We do not even have a copy of the printed version of the amended bill.

Last evening I glanced through the *Votes and Proceedings* of the other place and counted approximately 150 amendments which are not in the copy of the bill that I have. So I really don't know where to start. We can certainly arrange for the members of the committee to meet sometime this afternoon, and we can sit around for an hour or so and drink coffee and then report the bill back without amendment. It seems to me that if the House of Commons can find 150 amendments in one evening, surely the Senate would be able to find a few amendments during an afternoon. But what would happen with the token amendments we would move in committee? They would be defeated and the bill would be passed as we have received it, in bits and pieces.

Senator Kelly showed us a stack of paper this morning that no Senate committee or any self-respecting organization should be expected to consider on such short notice. Obviously, if the bill is referred to the committee, the committee will consider the bill, but I would not consider it to be a great compliment to the committee system to see it degraded to that level.

**Senator Frith:** Honourable senators—

**The Hon. the Speaker:** Honourable senators, I wish to inform the Senate that if the Honourable Senator Frith speaks now, his speech will have the effect of closing the debate on second reading of this bill.

**Senator Frith:** Honourable senators, for the reasons I expressed in my speech in support of the bill, and for the reasons expressed by Senator Doody, I do not intend to ask that this bill be referred to committee. I agree with his analysis and I further agree, as I think I made clear in my speech in support of the bill, that it is and ought to be unusual to ask the Senate to approve a bill of this kind, except on the basis I mentioned.

I have only one comment to make regarding Senator Kelly's intervention. When he said that it is the government that is asking for this legislation to be passed today—and that is true, it is the government that is asking that the legislation be passed—in a sense that is a bit of bum rap because that is not what I am asking the Senate to do; I am asking the Senate to have faith not only in the government in passing this but to have faith in all parties in the House of Commons—which may be worse. What else can I say? That is exactly what I am asking the Senate to do. I am asking that the Senate accept the co-operative work done by the members of the other place, and bearing in mind the fact that all parties in the other place supported the bill in its present form, not as a perfect bill but as a bill that ought to be passed before we adjourn.

**Senator Doody:** What you are saying is that we do not need a Senate.

**Senator Roblin:** That is the best argument for abolition.

[Senator Doody.]

**Senator Frith:** I am saying that it is and ought to be unusual to ask the Senate to do this. I say that we certainly do need a Senate. I am saying that it is and ought to be exceptional to ask the Senate to approve a bill of such complexity. I cannot put it on a higher basis.

I have nothing further to add except to ask honourable senators to support second reading of the bill for the reasons I have stated.

Motion agreed to and bill read a second time, on division.

#### THIRD READING

**The Hon. the Speaker:** Honourable senators, when shall this bill be read the third time?

**Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, with leave of the Senate and notwithstanding rule 45(1)(b), I move that this bill be read the third time now.

**The Hon. the Speaker:** Is leave granted, honourable senators?

**Hon. Senators:** Agreed.

Motion agreed to and bill read third time and passed, on division.

#### DEFENCE OF CANADA REGULATIONS

BILL TO GRANT ACCESS TO RECORDS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE—  
SECOND READING

**Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Government)** moved the second reading of Bill C-252, to grant access to records of the Special Committee on the Defence of Canada Regulations.

He said: Honourable senators, Bill C-252 is a private member's public bill. The object of the bill, as set out in the explanatory note, is as follows:

During the Second World War a Special Committee on the Defence of Canada Regulations sat *in camera* and limited the distribution of its minutes and evidence to its members. The purpose of this Bill is to authorize the release of all the records of that committee which are still classified.

The background, honourable senators, is that an historian was doing some research on the history of the Jehovah's Witnesses in Canada during the Second World War. He learned about this committee and felt there was relevant material held by it. After consulting with some of his colleagues who were also historians, he corresponded with the Honourable John Reid of the other place and one of his colleagues from the Progressive Conservative Party. The Honourable John Reid is an historian, and perhaps his Conservative colleague is also, I am not sure. In any event, they both agreed, as did other Canadian historians, that it would be useful to have this material available and, therefore, introduced this private bill. I think it received unanimous approval on the other side. It seems to me from reading the correspond-