

dence, was carefully considered before the report was drafted. The honourable senator from Grandville (Hon. Mr. Bouffard) made representations on behalf of the Quebec Bar; and we also heard from members of the Canadian Bar Association. We went over all the suggestions in detail, and discussed them with the superintendent.

Hon. Mr. Dupuis: Were all the suggestions of the Canadian Bar Association adopted?

Hon. Mr. Haig: No, certainly not, but they were considered fully. I am a member of the Canadian Bar Association, and I know that every single representation made by that association was discussed. We had on the committee such members as the honourable senior senator from Toronto (Hon. Mr. Hayden), the honourable senator from L'Acadie (Hon. Mr. Leger), the honourable senator from Carleton (Hon. Mr. Fogo), and the honourable senator from Wellington (Hon. Mr. Howard) three of whom are lawyers and members of the Canadian Bar Association.

My only reason for rising at this time is that I am afraid the other house will not get through its business by early December.

Hon. Mr. Howard: That is right.

Hon. Mr. Haig: It has a long list of government measures before it, and I am concerned for fear that this bill, which is very much in the interest of Canadian business, will not be passed this session; but if it is high enough on the order paper in the other house, the government will have to consider it.

I say quite candidly that the young man who is now Superintendent of Bankruptcy impressed me favourably, and I would be pleased to see him administer this new Act, which he has helped to frame, for the benefit of the country.

Since 1946 I have been on every committee that has considered the bankruptcy measure. Further, I have personally interviewed all the official receivers in the province of Manitoba. If a personal reference may be pardoned, I would add that my law office has considerable bankruptcy practice, and I know pretty well the sort of legislation that is required. When certain suggestions were made before the committee I considered them in the light of my own experience and what the receivers had told me.

As far as the copyright provisions are concerned, the Canadian Authors' Association made certain recommendations. Certain suggestions came from my friend's province, and these were considered by the honourable senator from Sorel (Hon. Mr. David), the honourable senator from Kingston (Hon. Mr. Davies) and myself. The Canadian Authors' Association thanked us very kindly for the amendment we proposed.

As to banking arrangements, we considered the whole matter very fully. We submitted questions to Mr. MacDonald, the superintendent, and he came before us and said that the solicitors for the bankers requested certain amendments. He suggested that it was perhaps better to restore certain provisions which it was proposed to cut out of the present act, and we adopted his suggestion unanimously.

Bankruptcy is a very intricate subject, and I would hate to see this bill go over until next session, particularly after the committee has done so much work on it. Bankruptcy questions as between unsecured creditors, secured creditors and the assignees, are always controversial. We have tried as best we can to find a solution for the various problems, and I would ask my honourable friend to withdraw his objection.

Hon. Mr. Dupuis: Honourable senators, with the indulgence of the house, I should like to state more clearly my views on the subject, and to answer some remarks made by the honourable member from Vancouver South (Hon. Mr. Farris). My honourable friends know me well enough to appreciate that I have a high regard for the work done by this committee. Nevertheless, I think that all members of the Senate have a right to know the details of such an important piece of legislation before adopting it. I am acting in a spirit not of stubbornness but of conscientiousness and I believe that I am in the right. I have a responsibility to the ordinary lawyers—not corporation lawyers—who are interested in this bill. In such an important matter it is the duty of this house to protect the public by seeing that all of the amendments are fully considered before the bill is passed.

The honourable leader opposite (Hon. Mr. Haig), for whom I have the highest regard, surely will not force my sentiments to the limit by asking me to withdraw my objection. I understand very well that I have the right to prevent the passing of this bill now, but I do not wish to use my power arbitrarily. I only wish to make sure that the members of this house have an opportunity to at least look over these amendments before they are passed. I was surprised to hear the honourable senator from Vancouver South refer to the amendments as minor—

Hon. Mr. Beaubien: He did not say that.

Hon. Mr. Dupuis: —although, he said, it took three years to pass them.

Hon. Mr. Farris: When I said that amendments were of a minor nature I referred to some of those that were read at the table today. I did not say that all were minor.