

Department of National Health would find records showing that some soft drinks are very deleterious to the health of children. Just before I left to come here a dentist in my home town—I will not mention his name—warned a mother that her boy had better stop drinking a certain brand of soft drink because of the effect it was having upon his teeth. He added that it was easy to tell from the teeth of every boy who came to him for treatment whether the boy was accustomed to drink that brand. It is unfortunate that more publicity is not given to the harmful effects of certain soft drinks, but anyone who endeavours to make the facts known is opposed by vested interests, which have large sums invested in the pop business all over the country. I think that the fewer the candy bars and soft drinks that children consume, the better it will be for their health.

**Hon. Mr. Robertson:** Honourable senators, I have not sufficient information to enable me to comment on the remarks of the honourable gentleman from Toronto Trinity (Hon. Mr. Roebuck). It seems to me that if the tax on soft drink manufacturers is likely to have the serious effect that he fears, the government will take some action to prevent it.

**Hon. Mr. Roebuck:** I hope so.

**Hon. Mr. Robertson:** His fears for the manufacturers are probably not well grounded.

Just a word on the suggestion by the acting leader of the opposition (Hon. Mr. Aseltine) that the tax on candy and chewing gum should be removed because they are largely consumed by children. The huge sums which are being spent today on amusements and liquor—I am not making any criticism of these things at all—indicate that the purchasing power of the mass of the people in this country is very great, yet despite the tremendous additional outlays that we are undertaking for defence it has been decided, rightly or wrongly, not to raise the existing rates of income tax. The federal treasury is providing more than \$300 million a year for children's allowances, and probably the bulk of this is being used for the benefit of the children. While some of the money which children spend for their pleasure may be earned by themselves, I suppose that by far the larger proportion of the money that comes into their hands is furnished by their parents. Therefore a tax on anything consumed by children is indirectly a tax on their parents. However, because of the wide distribution of income in this country, it is inevitable that if the public revenue is to be substantially increased, taxes must be applied generally to all people. In countries where life is less happy than in Canada, and the income is in the hands of a few people, substantial

increases in revenue could perhaps be obtained by taxing only the few. But in this country, as I have said, taxes must apply generally to all the people.

The motion was agreed to, and the bill was read the second time.

#### THIRD READING

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

**Hon. Mr. Robertson:** I move third reading now.

The motion was agreed to, and the bill was read the third time, and passed.

#### EXCISE BILL

##### FIRST READING

A message was received from the House of Commons with Bill 9, an Act to amend the Excise Act, 1934.

The bill was read the first time.

##### SECOND READING

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

**Hon. Mr. Robertson:** I move second reading now.

**Hon. Mr. Roebuck:** Is this another bill of which no copies are available?

**Hon. Mr. Robertson:** This is the third measure that I referred to. It contains amendments to the Excise Act, and as no copies are available, I shall read it. Briefly, it proposes to increase the tax on spirits from \$11 to \$12 a gallon, and to raise from 16 cents to 21 cents a pound the tax on malt used in beer.

The bill reads as follows:

His Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and House of Commons of Canada enacts as follows:

1. The first paragraph of section one of the Schedule to The Excise Act, 1934, chapter fifty-two of the statutes of 1934, is repealed and the following substituted therefor:

##### "1. Spirits

On every gallon of the strength of proof distilled in Canada, except as hereinafter otherwise provided, twelve dollars, and so in proportion for any greater or less strength than the strength of proof and for any less quantity than a gallon:"

2. The first paragraph of section two of the Schedule to the said Act is repealed and the following substituted therefor:

##### "2. Canadian Brandy

On every gallon of the strength of proof, ten dollars, and so in proportion for any greater or less strength than the strength of proof and for any less quantity than a gallon:"

3. Section four of the Schedule to the said Act is repealed and the following substituted therefor:

##### "4. Malt