

in the Senate to explain a government bill initiated in this house.

A careful search of our records indicates that the number of government bills initiated in the Senate this session—twenty-four—has been unequalled in any session since at least 1908, when the number was thirteen; and that until 1947, when the figure rose to fifteen, the number of government measures initiated here in one session has never exceeded eight. During the war years, from 1940 to 1944-45, government measures were without exception brought down first in the House of Commons, but in the three years since the end of the war the number of government measures introduced in the Senate has steadily increased.

A further indication of the increased legislative activity of the Senate is to be found in the number of other bills handled. For instance, this session fourteen private bills were initiated here. Then, as we all know, our Divorce Committee has been very active: it brought in favourable reports on two hundred and ninety-five petitions, for each of which a bill was passed. Besides all this, the Senate has dealt with a hundred-odd measures that originated in the House of Commons.

I have drawn attention to these figures because I felt that the house and the country as a whole would be interested in them. The Senate is prepared and indeed eager, as it will continue to be in the years to come, to participate to the utmost of its ability in the legislative business of Canada.

IMMIGRATION

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The Senate proceeded to consideration of the report of the Standing Committee on Immigration and Labour on the operation and administration of the Immigration Act.

Hon. CAIRINE R. WILSON moved concurrence in the report.

She said: Honourable senators, I had hoped that before I asked for consideration of the committee's recommendations honourable members would have had an opportunity of reading them. However, I trust that the report will be carefully studied as soon as possible.

Hon. Mr. HAIG: May I suggest that the honourable senator read the report now? It is really worth while.

Hon. Mrs. WILSON: The report appears in today's *Minutes* as well as in *Hansard*; but if honourable members so desire, I shall read it.

Hon. Mr. HAIG: Perhaps that will not be necessary.

Hon. Mrs. WILSON: It will be noted from the report that during the last twelve months the Immigration Branch has greatly expanded its activities. The government has agreed to admit 30,000 persons from the displaced persons camps of Europe. This is an evidence of a desire to fulfil our obligations as a member of the International Refugee Organization, and indicates a more generous attitude on the part of our own people. In addition, 25,000 applications of near relatives have been approved. To date only some 8,000 persons in this class have arrived here, but the others will be brought over as soon as possible. The *Beaverbrae*, a converted German prize ship, is being used for this special work and will bring to our shores about 770 near relatives every thirty-seven days.

The committee felt that a careful study of the deportation regulations should be undertaken by the departments concerned. People who are admitted to Canada after having successfully passed the health tests may suffer a temporary nervous or mental disorder requiring treatment in a mental institution. After being restored to normal health they may be permitted by the minister to remain in Canada, but they never can become Canadian citizens. This must inevitably have an effect upon their morale, and I fear that sometimes it causes a recurrence of the original malady.

The committee was very favourably impressed by the presentations from members and Canadian representatives of various Chinese organizations. These people came to urge that P.C. 2115 be repealed, so as to permit Chinese resident in Canada to bring their wives and families here. I think the committee felt that the Act was contrary to our humanitarian and social obligations, and inconsistent with the Prime Minister's statement in another place that there should be no discrimination against the Chinese.

Through the efforts of the honourable senator from Lethbridge (Hon. Mr. Buchanan) a brief, prepared by an Estonian on behalf of a large number of his countrymen now in Sweden, was presented to the committee. It was read by the honourable senator from Churchill (Hon. Mr. Crerar). It was said that these people are not under the protection of the International Refugee Organization, and although at present they are perhaps fairly comfortable, they live in constant fear of being returned to their country of origin. We are convinced that they would make most