

CRIMINAL CODE BILL**FIRST READING**

A message was received from the House of Commons with Bill 7, an Act respecting the Criminal Law.

The bill was read the first time.

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

Hon. Mr. Macdonald: Honourable senators, when we last met I suggested that we proceed with the second reading of this bill at the present sitting. I had hoped that the bill would be distributed to honourable senators during the Easter week, so that they might have an opportunity to peruse it before we reassembled. However, the bill had to be reprinted and it was not distributed until late this morning. It is a very important measure, and in the circumstances I will not move second reading tonight.

I have been in communication with the honourable senator from Toronto (Hon. Mr. Hayden) and the honourable senator from Toronto-Trinity (Hon. Mr. Roebuck), who advised me that they will be prepared to proceed tomorrow. Therefore, I would move that leave be given to proceed with the motion for second reading of this bill tomorrow.

Hon. Mr. Haig: Honourable senators, may I be permitted to say a word? I was hoping that when the bill reached this house there would not be a long discussion on second reading, but that at an early date it would go to committee, where we could avail ourselves of the very fine report on the whole bill that our Parliamentary Counsel has made.

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Haig: When the Criminal Code Bill was last before this house a subcommittee consisting of the honourable senators from Toronto (Hon. Mr. Hayden), Toronto-Trinity (Hon. Mr. Roebuck), Grandville (Hon. Mr. Bouffard) and Vancouver South (Hon. Mr. Farris) made a detailed study of the bill. Their amendments, I thought, greatly improved the proposed legislation, and I take this opportunity to commend them for the splendid service they rendered. So much was accomplished at that time that a lengthy discussion should not be necessary now. I

would hope, therefore, that the appropriate committee of the Senate would apply itself to consideration of the bill that now comes before us and report to this house just as soon as possible. I am not trying to tell the committee what it should do, but I do feel that the bill should not fail to pass at this session.

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Haig: I think it should come back from committee as early as possible, so that we may consider any amendments and pass the bill before prorogation. Delay is upsetting to the practice of criminal law, to some extent, and I believe it would be in the interest of the administration of justice to have the revised code enacted very shortly. I would urge my fellow senators to spend as little time as possible in debate on the second reading stage, with a view to expediting reference of the bill to committee. After it is reported back from committee it can be discussed on third reading just as well as on second reading—a procedure that is perfectly proper under our rules. I make that suggestion with all due respect.

The motion was agreed to, and the bill was ordered to be placed on the Order Paper for second reading tomorrow.

INTERNATIONAL RAPIDS POWER DEVELOPMENT BILL**FIRST READING**

Hon. Mr. Macdonald presented Bill B-15, an Act to amend the International Rapids Power Development Act.

The bill was read the first time.

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

Hon. Mr. Macdonald: Honourable senators, I would ask that this bill be placed on the Order Paper for second reading at the next sitting of the house. However, I may say that it is not my intention to proceed with second reading at that time.

CANADIAN CITIZENSHIP BILL**FIRST READING**

Hon. Mr. Macdonald presented Bill C-15, an Act to amend the Canadian Citizenship Act.

The bill was read the first time.