

Mr. Gardiner: It was the reverse, but either way will do.

Mr. Knight: It is the same thing. My answer is that as a member of our caucus I know that the member for Winnipeg North Centre has been in constant consultation with the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggan and has received his approval—in most cases ahead of time—for those subjects on which the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre was to talk in this house.

Mr. Gardiner: Might I ask a second question?

Mr. Knight: No.

Mr. Gardiner: I wish to ask a second question as a result of the answer received to the first.

Mr. Knight: I submit that the minister has no right—

Mr. Dewar: Don't be afraid.

Mr. Knight: I am not afraid. Let him make a speech; he has forty minutes.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: If the hon. member for Saskatoon (Mr. Knight) does not wish a question to be asked, it is his privilege.

Mr. Gardiner: Well, it is my privilege to make a speech and I have the floor for the moment.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. Knight: I am asking you, sir—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: How can I hear anything if I have two members standing on the floor of the house both trying to speak? I recognize the member for Saskatoon.

Mr. Knight: I am asking you, sir, for a ruling, as Speaker of this house, whether the Minister of Agriculture has the right to ask that a question be put on the record when I refuse to answer.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. member for Saskatoon had the floor. When he resumed his seat after concluding his speech he agreed that the Minister of Agriculture might ask one question. That question was asked.

Mr. Knight: And answered.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Now, as a result of the answer which was given, the minister requests permission to ask another question. To this request the hon. member for Saskatoon answered in the negative. The minister pursued his attempt to put his question or to obtain consent from the hon. member and the latter persisted in refusing. Now the minister says that if he cannot ask a question he is entitled to make a speech.

Committee on Defence Expenditure

However, I am confronted with this position. Before the hon. minister rose the hon. member for York West (Mr. Adamson) stood and asked to speak. Is he going to speak or is he going to yield to the minister?

Mr. Adamson: I wish to speak.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Very well.

Mr. Rodney Adamson (York West): This rather amazing debate in which we have the spectacle of the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) calling the leader of the C.C.F. party a receiver of stolen goods and the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) his fence, rather suggests from what has already happened that he, the Prime Minister, like Laocoon, is becoming entangled. I trust that his fate will not be that of the Greek of old.

An hon. Member: What about Confucius?

Mr. Adamson: Confucius merely played a musical instrument. He did not throw a spear even at a wooden horse.

Now, Mr. Speaker, what is a defence committee for? Surely we must consider that it is to investigate, examine, question, and if necessary advise the government and members of the Department of National Defence, both in and out of uniform, on the vital problems of the defence of Canada. If we in this parliament, and as members of the defence committee, do not do a job in this regard we are not fulfilling our duty to the country and to those who elected us.

My objection to this proposed amendment by the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Claxton) is that it shows that the government has a conception that we are called on to fight a limited war. This is suicide for Canada. The one overwhelming and dynamic fact, unpleasant as it may be, is that we must be prepared to fight an unlimited war. There is no such thing in the modern world as a successful limited war.

Mr. McCulloch: On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker, I do not believe the hon. member is supposed to be reading his speech. He should be adhering to the rules of the house.

Mr. Adamson: I am not, of course, reading my speech. For the aggressor to be successful, the war must be unlimited. Let us not fool ourselves that the Russians do not realize this. Russia has always lost limited wars and always won unlimited ones. She knows this and did not forget the lesson of the Russo-Japanese war, which the Japanese unfortunately did.

I contend that the job of a defence committee is to deal with the whole broad problem of national defence, and not to be hamstrung