

*Defence Production Act*

question of privilege, but if he is coming to it now, I think hon. members should give him a chance to state it.

**Mr. Kirk (Antigonish-Guysborough):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. About 200 years ago—183 years ago to be exact—a statement was made by a gentleman not known then but well known now. The statement was to this effect—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Some hon. Members:** Order.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The hon. member in stating a question of privilege must come directly to the point and not give us a quotation from someone who lived 200 years ago, no matter how famous he may have been. Will the hon. gentleman state his question of privilege?

**Mr. Kirk (Antigonish-Guysborough):** All I have is an observation.

**Mr. Speaker:** If the hon. member wishes to make an observation, and it is one which he could make while he is making his speech, may I tell him that as soon as the hon. member who now has the floor has concluded his remarks, I shall be glad to turn my eyes towards the hon. member for Antigonish-Guysborough and let him make his speech.

**Mr. Hamilton (Notre Dame de Grace):** On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker, as one who has participated in this debate may I say this. The hon. member who has just resumed his seat made an observation to the effect that attempts had been made by this party to persecute the Prime Minister and the Minister of Defence Production.

**Mr. Speaker:** Where is the question of privilege?

**Mr. Hamilton (Notre Dame de Grace):** The question of privilege is this, Mr. Speaker. As one who has participated in this debate may I say that I feel that those words perhaps are not quite parliamentary.

**An hon. Member:** That is your opinion.

**Mr. Speaker:** I should like to hear the opinions of older parliamentarians with respect to the expression. I should like to have the hon. member for Vancouver-Quadra (Mr. Green) or the hon. member for Eglinton (Mr. Fleming) give me their views as to whether or not I should adhere to the wishes of the hon. member for Notre Dame de Grace and have this expression expunged from the record or withdrawn, with proper apologies.

**Mr. Green:** No, Mr. Speaker. I suggest that we get on with the debate.

**Mr. Speaker:** I fully agree with the hon. member for Vancouver-Quadra. The hon. member for Leeds may have the floor.

**Mr. Stanton:** Before I proceed with the remarks I have to make now, Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate the members of my party upon the excellence of their speeches. They have spoken from their own convictions with reference to this Defence Production Act. During my few remarks this morning, I shall try not to repeat myself and I shall try to refrain from repeating any arguments that have been advanced during the last few days. However, I believe hon. members must be excused a certain amount of repetition in order that they may bring the true situation with regard to this bill to the notice of the public.

I should like to read a short extract from *Hansard* for Monday, July 4, page 5632, where the hon. member for Fort William (Mr. McIvor) said:

The first thing I want to say, Mr. Speaker, is that the rule on repetition should be watched closely. For my own amusement I have at times chalked down the number of repetitions that have taken place. It would surprise the opposition if they could have a little look at that record. The rule should be observed because I should like to see any member of the opposition, who can stand up and speak to the bill, say something altogether his own and not repeat anything. I do not think it is fair to keep on repeating, because these repetitions are costly to the taxpayers.

I am sure, Mr. Speaker, that we are all of the same opinion, that the hon. member for Fort William is a very kindly gentleman. One could go farther and say that the hon. member for Fort William would never leave this chamber for that which has come to be known as a "quickie". However, I do not believe there is a member in the house who is more guilty of repetition than the hon. member for Fort William. I shall quote again from the same page of *Hansard*, 5632, where the hon. member for Fort William said:

... I am 100 per cent behind the minister.

I wonder how many times he has uttered that phrase. Whenever he rises to make a speech in this house he informs us that he is 100 per cent behind the minister. Upon closing his address he will invariably say, "I congratulate the minister". I wonder how many times during the past 20 years that he has represented the constituency—how many hundreds of times—he has repeated those remarks? As I said before, Mr. Speaker, on occasion repetition is necessary in order to elaborate on any particular question.

During my journey home over the week end I was in touch with many citizens in my riding. This Defence Production Act and the elimination of the time limit from it was