

Defence Production Act

of Defence Production knows a great deal more about this subject than members opposite.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Knowles: That is not what he said.

Mr. Drew: I hear the socialist allies to the left saying "hear, hear".

Mr. Knowles: Mr. Speaker, I do not blame the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Drew) for not hearing too clearly some of our remarks. I said in jest, "that is not what he said". I did not say "hear, hear". I was just having a little fun out of the fact that the Leader of the Opposition did not quote accurately the statement made by the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, for which he has apologized.

An hon. Member: That is quite usual.

Mr. Drew: No, Mr. Speaker, I am going to deal now with an interjection by one hon. member who says, "That is quite usual", that there is an incorrect quotation. Hon. members opposite know that that is not so. They know quite well they have a chance to check me at any time in regard to any quotations I use. That is just one of the interjections which invite the very kind of comments to which Your Honour was referring earlier in this debate.

Now, so far as the interjection by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) is concerned, I would point out that I gladly accept his explanation of the comment which was made. I was refraining from repeating the words which had caused so much discussion already, but certainly the purport of the remark, perhaps more emphatically, was that the Minister of Defence Production knew a great deal more about this subject than hon. members opposite.

Mr. Gauthier (Portneuf): More than you.

Mr. Drew: I would gladly wait for the hon. member opposite to ask the question he wishes to ask.

Mr. Gauthier (Portneuf): I never asked a question.

Mr. Drew: It is just a meaningless noise from the other side.

Mr. Gauthier (Portneuf): I said "more than yourself"; that is what I said.

Mr. Drew: I feel that it is worth while dealing with that subject. I was dealing with the fact that there were a number of hon. members on this side, as on the other side, who have very good reason to know something about the effect of weapons of this and other kinds. I say, without any reflection on

the Minister of Defence Production and without a moment's hesitation, that there are a great many members on this side and on the other side who know a great deal more about the effect of weapons on human beings and what it means to be on the receiving end of those weapons than does the Minister of Defence Production. That is no reflection on him.

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): Mr. Speaker, I have been closer to the offensive end of a machine gun held by a German sailor than my hon. friends have ever been.

Mr. Drew: That is exactly the kind of argument that it is difficult—

An hon. Member: That is the one you are bringing in.

Mr. Drew: That is exactly the kind of argument that does make it extremely difficult to take the Minister of Defence Production as seriously as he would like us to take him. I am not in any way claiming any special knowledge of this subject beyond the fact that, if he cares to know, I have been within 30 yards of a German machine gun.

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): I have been within five yards.

Mr. Drew: I think that probably the Minister of Defence Production would, on cooler reflection, regret the inference that he has left by that remark. Nevertheless I am not in any way referring to people personally. I am pointing out, and I would remind him that is what I said before, that there are hon. members on both sides of this house who have had the experience of knowing what the impact of these weapons is. The Minister of Defence Production has taken his full chances. We all know quite well that he narrowly escaped with his life in performing his services to this country. He was in Britain also at a time when there were many very unpleasant weapons arriving there. I repeat my statements, however, that there are those on this side and on the other side who have had a longer and more continuous occasion to know the effect of weapons upon human beings.

I had only mentioned that because of the highly improper suggestion of the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration (Mr. Pickersgill) that anyone on this side was minimizing the danger of the hydrogen bomb or the atomic bomb or any other weapons.

Mr. Reinke: You called it a bogey.

Mr. Drew: The hon. member should really pay attention to what is taking place. I was pointing out that the Minister of Defence Production was trying to create bogeys by