

Inquiries of the Ministry

But in this particular case there have been—I do not want to say complaints—suggestions that the definition was too strict. The reply I make is that this is the first year of operation and that in respect of this valuable but difficult legislation we—the provinces and ourselves—are doing our best.

Mr. Zaplinny: May I ask just one more question? Are any steps being taken as between the minister's department and the provinces to renegotiate that definition with a view to making it more lenient?

Mr. Martin: As I said when the legislation was introduced, we will determine future action in the light of the experience that we acquire during the next period.

Mr. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): I should like to ask a further supplementary question on the same point. Can the Minister of National Health and Welfare inform the house whether cases of total and permanent disability resulting from chronic neurosis are covered by the act? In view of the continuing session and the reaction from the government side this might be important to hon. members of the house.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Martin: My hon. friend has asked an extremely important and engaging question. I was wondering when I would be given an opportunity to characterize the nature of the proceedings of this house. I would be inclined to think that medical opinion would judge, from some of the interrogations, that some hon. gentlemen opposite might qualify.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Knowles: Except that there is a means test.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Dinsdale: I was glad to have the definition given by the minister. Would that same definition apply to cases outside of the house?

Mr. Martin: It would depend on what the relation was to some hon. members sitting opposite.

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION

RUBBER FOOTWEAR—REPRESENTATIONS TO GOVERNMENT ON PLIGHT OF INDUSTRY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Donald M. Fleming (Eglinton): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Minister of Trade and Commerce or the Minister of Finance what consideration the government is giving to the plight of the rubber footwear industry

[Mr. Martin.]

in the light of the representations that were made to them in that regard a few days ago?

Some hon. Members: Order paper.

Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, representations were made to the Minister of Finance (Mr. Harris) and myself a week or so ago. The situation as explained to us is being carefully studied with the hope that some remedy can be found.

Mr. Fleming: Is that remedy of such a nature that it may be coming before this present session of the house?

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): I do not think the house will be called upon to consider the matter this session.

Mr. Fleming: What is that?

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): I do not expect that the house will be called upon to consider the matter at this session.

DEFENCE PRODUCTION ACT

AMENDMENTS RESPECTING SALARY OF MINISTER AND EXPIRY OF ACT

The house resumed, from Wednesday, July 6, consideration of the motion of Mr. Howe, Port Arthur (for Mr. St. Laurent) for the second reading of Bill No. 256, to amend the Defence Production Act, and the amendment thereto of Mr. Brooks.

Mr. Hayden Stanton (Leeds): Mr. Speaker,—

Mr. J. R. Kirk (Antigonish-Guysborough): Mr. Speaker, on a question of privilege,—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Two hon. members may not have the floor at the same time. Apparently the hon. member for Antigonish-Guysborough wishes to raise a question of privilege.

Mr. Kirk (Antigonish-Guysborough): On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker, before we resume the debate on Bill No. 256, to amend the Defence Production Act, I should like to make an observation. During the last eight days the members of the official opposition have been doing their best to persecute the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) and the Minister of Defence Production (Mr. Howe).

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Kirk (Antigonish-Guysborough): There is a statement that has been made—

Mr. Speaker: Order. If the hon. member has a question of privilege, he must state it. It may be that his introductory remarks do not appear to be part of a normal and orderly