

Emergency Powers Act

people that they should be. In 1949 a clear mandate was given to the government of Canada.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

An hon. Member: He is going out.

Mr. Sinnott: I would like him to stay here, because there are certain things to which I am going to refer in a few moments.

What prompted me to speak was that the Leader of the Opposition came into the house last night and in a very, very fretful tone—fretful, as well as arrogant—made some comments as they are reported at page 2109 of *Hansard*. This is what appears at that page:

Mr. Garson: On a question of privilege. My question of privilege is this. I refer to my hon. friend's statement that the points which he is now discussing have not been dealt with. I dealt with them earlier this afternoon when he was at another place, no doubt on an engagement. He therefore should not now be suggesting that they have not been dealt with by the government.

Mr. Drew: Mr. Chairman, I regret that I now find it necessary to deal with the implication left by the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) that night before last, and that now left by the Minister of Justice (Mr. Garson). I dislike doing it, but I am going to tell hon. members that the reason I was out of the house earlier in the week and the reason I was out of the house earlier today was the death of one very dear to the members of my family. I was at a funeral this morning and just got back by air this afternoon in time to come into the house when I did.

Now, in picking up the *Ottawa Journal* of February 19, I find a report dealing with the night before, and saying this:

Progressive Conservative Leader George Drew predicted last night that Canada will emerge as a major world power in a few years and might have a population of thirty millions by 1965. "This may well be the dawn of the period of the greatest opportunity in Canada", he told the annual dinner meeting of the St. Catharines and district chamber of commerce.

The Chairman: I am afraid those remarks are not relevant to the resolution. I do not think the hon. member, in the debate on this resolution, should discuss the activities of the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Fulton: On a question of privilege, I believe that the hon. member is entirely out of order, true. But he has gone a certain distance along the line he started, and I believe he should finish it, because I think what he has tried to do is sufficiently contemptible—

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Fulton: The facts should be placed on the record.

The Chairman: I shall take into consideration the remarks made by the hon. member for Kamloops and, in doing so, I would suggest that perhaps he should revise the word

"contemptible". He has used a word which I believe he should consent to withdraw. When the hon. member for Springfield has finished speaking, if the hon. member for Kamloops wishes to reply to that phase of the speech he has the right to do so.

Some hon. Members: Withdraw.

Mr. Sinnott: Mr. Chairman, the point I was trying to make was this—

Some hon. Members: Withdraw.

Mr. Sinnott: I will not ask him to withdraw because I realize the vein in which it was given, and I could not expect anything different.

The point I was trying to make was this, that the Leader of the Opposition said, as I understood him, that the emergency powers bill had not been discussed while he was in the house, and that it was discussed while he was in another place on business. Well, the emergency powers bill was discussed in the house on February 18, as appears at pages 2080 and 2081 of *Hansard*, and continued until the end of the evening's debate.

That is the evening that I was trying to say the Leader of the Opposition was making a political speech before the chamber of commerce in St. Catharines. In spite of all we have heard the hon. member for Lake Centre say about the extraordinary powers given to the government in the last eight years, last night we heard our Minister of Finance say that we had made continuous progress such as we had never seen before, with eight continuous budget surpluses.

Another thing that prompts me to get on my feet today is the fact that I asked the hon. member for Vancouver-Quadra a question on February 6, as reported on page 1694 of *Hansard*, as to how many times these emergency powers had been used in the last five years, and the hon. member replied as follows:

I do not suppose the hon. member who has asked the question would have the faintest idea of what emergency powers are.

Those words are in line with what was said by the hon. member for Kamloops. I had been listening to the hon. member for Vancouver-Quadra for approximately 40 minutes and I wanted to find out whether he knew how many times these emergency powers had been used. I will give him the information.

In 1951 these powers were used 15 times. In 1952 they were used 5 times, 4 times to rescind previous orders in council and one time in connection with the licensing of pilots. We listened to the hon. member for Lake Centre for 45 minutes this afternoon, and for