

tion. While I agree with the hon. member that it is desirable that that question should be decided, particularly as far as the western hemisphere is concerned, nevertheless I believe that the greatest question facing this country is still the question of production, and that until our production reaches the point where we can supply not only all our fighting forces but also the men in training, the question of compulsory service is not of such great importance.

Mr. POTTIER: I wish to make a few remarks in connection with a statement made by the hon. member for Vancouver South on Friday last, as reported on page 2068 of *Hansard*. His statement reads as follows:

If the members from the minister's own province have not gumption enough to get up and urge that steps be taken to improve the defence of the Atlantic coast, I do not think it helps very much to accuse somebody else who speaks of the needs of the Pacific coast of being unfair to Canada. The onus is just the other way. I say, give the Atlantic coast everything they need, and I have pleaded for that, not as strongly perhaps as I might have for the needs of the Pacific coast because I do not know all the facts. I do not appreciate the minister or any member getting up here and making accusations against me in that way.

I am suggesting to the hon. member that that statement, particularly in conjunction with the use of the word "gumption", is objectionable, and quite frankly that is the reason why I am on my feet at this time. His statement is unfair, and I urge upon the hon. member in fairness to the members from the maritimes that he withdraw that statement. I do not think any hon. member from the maritimes would use a term like that about any other hon. member or a group of members from the Pacific coast.

Mr. HOMUTH: What would they say?

Mr. POTTIER: They would say, "Treat the two coasts in the same manner." That is all we on the Atlantic coast have ever asked for. We on the Atlantic coast have not asked for anything that is not coming to us, and such expressions as that used by the hon. member for Vancouver South are unfortunate and give a wrong impression. At the present time we are more in the war zone than the Pacific coast. We have submarines off our shores; we have sinkings in sight of land—

An hon. MEMBER: East is East and West is West.

Mr. GREEN: If the hon. member feels badly about that word, I am only too glad to withdraw it.

Mr. POTTIER: Thank you.

[Mr. MacInnis.]

Mr. GREEN: It would be unfortunate if there should develop a contest between hon. members from the far east and those from the far west with regard to what defences they get. As a matter of fact both of us have a hard enough time getting proper defences. I was, however, attacked the other day for supposedly thinking only of the western coast. I thought it was a most unfair statement to have made against me; it was on that account that I made the explanation I did. But I have no wish at all to hurt the feelings of any hon. members from Nova Scotia.

Mr. RALSTON: All I want to say is, I think my hon. friend can search what I have said from end to end and he will find no attack of any kind on him. What I said was that I was glad to recognize that there are two coasts and that sometimes I thought he had not given the same attention to that fact that he might have given.

Mr. GREEN: I do not think that is a very complimentary statement.

Mr. RALSTON: There was no suggestion of an attack. I read *Hansard* afterwards, and I think neither he nor any other hon. member will find any suggestion of the kind.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: I have refrained from making any speeches in this debate because I am sure the minister does not need them. I will, however, make one suggestion to him in order to facilitate peace. I suggest that he have a condensed report of some of the strategic points brought forward by some of the armchair generals sent to Hitler and the latter will at once call the war off. It will be noticed that there has been a remarkable reluctance on the part of some hon. ex-soldier members to speak during this discussion. I am sorry that hon. members from the maritimes take offence at the remarks of the hon. member for Vancouver South; if he had had the pleasure I had the other night of partaking of a delightful lobster supper with hon. members from the maritimes, he would have made no such suggestion.

As to the hon. member for Peel (Mr. Graydon), I am not congratulating the leader of the opposition (Mr. Hanson); I leave that to the hon. member for Témiscouata (Mr. Pouliot); but the hon. member for Peel said something the other day that as a returned man I should like to endorse and that, in my opinion, 99 per cent of the private members endorse, namely, that neither the minister nor any other member of the government has yet offered a reasonable