

Defence Production Act

Mr. Pickersgill: That is what you said.

Mr. Drew: The Minister of Defence Production raises our natural concern about the hydrogen bomb, the atomic bomb and any type of weapons, about which some of our members know something.

Mr. Pickersgill: And about which the right hon. gentleman knows a hell of a lot more.

Mr. Drew: Mr. Speaker, I insist that those words remain on *Hansard*.

Mr. Pickersgill: Before I am asked to, I withdraw that unfortunate expression.

Mr. Drew: No, Mr. Speaker. I insist that those words remain on *Hansard*.

Mr. Pickersgill: Perhaps we might leave that to the Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The minister himself has requested that the words be withdrawn, and if I heard the expression correctly it is one which the minister himself would not wish me to repeat because it was made in the heat of debate.

Mr. Green: In the heat of interruption.

Mr. Speaker: That might describe the situation more correctly. Therefore I am sure he will not object if on this occasion it is felt that the words should be expunged from the record.

Mr. Drew: No, Mr. Speaker. After all, there are occasions when it is essential that those who are not in the house know the actual atmosphere in which debate is conducted. This was not in the heat of interruption or debate. It was in the heat of eruption. I think that hon. members of the house are not alone entitled to know the kind of remarks made by ministers in this house with regard to subjects that are under discussion, and I do not believe that these words should be expunged.

Mr. Speaker: May I interrupt the Leader of the Opposition to ask him what he wants done with respect to these words.

Mr. Drew: I submit, Mr. Speaker, that the word "hell" is a word that is known to the public in general, and that it will not greatly offend the ears of hon. members or the reading public if that word, which appears frequently in books with infinitely more important significance than *Hansard*, should remain on the record.

Mr. Harris: On the point of order, I think it has been a well recognized practice that *Hansard* seeks to record accurately what is said in the House of Commons. However, we all know that on occasion one makes grammatical errors and other errors—

[Mr. Drew.]

Mr. Hodgson: That is the right word, Walter.

Mr. Harris:—and that these inconsistencies, if you will, are permitted to be changed without changing the substance of the remark. I should think that the interjection that was made could be correctly interpreted without the one particular word being used.

Mr. Pickersgill: Perhaps as the offender I might say a word.

Mr. Speaker: May I ask hon. members to consider this situation? In the heat of interruption—I am borrowing the words of the hon. member for Vancouver-Quadra—an interjection was made. I do not know what all the words were, but as I heard it the end of the sentence was "a hell of a lot".

Mr. Harris: "More".

Mr. Pickersgill: Perhaps I can assist Your Honour.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the minister would be kind enough to repeat the exact expression.

Mr. Pickersgill: As nearly as I can recollect, what I said was that the right hon. gentleman, meaning the Minister of Defence Production, knew a hell of a lot more about this subject than the hon. gentlemen opposite. That is my opinion, sir. If you will permit me, I should like to add that I never asked to have the remark stricken from *Hansard*. I apologized to the house for using the word and I repeat my apology, but I have not the slightest objection, sir, to having it on *Hansard*.

Mr. Speaker: I thought I heard the Leader of the Opposition make a request to me to have the expression expunged.

Mr. Drew: No, no.

Mr. Speaker: If that is not so, then I will not have it expunged. What is the wish of the Leader of the Opposition?

Mr. Drew: Mr. Speaker, I do not wish it expunged. On the contrary, I want it to remain on *Hansard*.

Mr. Speaker: All right.

Mr. Drew: I think it is proper that those who read *Hansard* in and outside the house should know exactly the atmosphere in which debate is conducted by some of the hon. members opposite.

Mr. Speaker: I take it, therefore, that the Leader of the Opposition now wishes to carry on the discussion.

Mr. Drew: Certainly. Without using any of the offensive words, may I refer to the remark of the hon. member that the Minister