

Defence Production Act

Act should be invoked. On the contrary, the hope was expressed that the conditions would never arise under which the War Measures Act could be invoked.

Mr. Philpott: If my hon. friend had listened more and said less in the debate during the last two days, he would have noticed that on at least four different occasions members of the opposition have said that if we abolish the Defence Production Act, in case of need the War Measures Act—

Mr. Drew: Mr. Speaker, on a question of privilege, there must be some limit to the continued inaccuracies of the member for Vancouver South. No hon. member has stated or implied what he has just stated, and he knows it. He knows perfectly well that what has been said is that, if the circumstances of a condition of war arise, the War Measures Act is on the statute books. He knows perfectly well that the hon. members on this side have stated that they want the defence production department to be made permanent, but they do not want it to be made permanent with unlimited powers.

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I hope you will note that the Leader of the Opposition has now spoken in this debate.

Mr. Philpott: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Knowles: If so, how can the hon. member for Vancouver South speak again?

Mr. Philpott: Mr. Speaker, if I have misunderstood what I certainly took to be the plain meaning of the several statements of the opposition, all I can say is that it proves the words from the Holy Book of Wisdom, which says "In a multitude of words there is want of wisdom". Certainly that was my reading of what several members of the opposition said.

Mr. Fleming: You were not even in the house to listen.

Mr. Philpott: They say that if we abolish the Defence Production Act we can put our sole reliance on the War Measures Act, that we could invoke the War Measures Act if and when some particular necessity arises to give the government some emergency powers. I would submit to you, Mr. Speaker, that by invoking the War Measures Act before there is a condition of actual war in the world we would ourselves have contributed most terribly and disastrously perhaps to the very world crisis which we are endeavouring to avert.

Mr. Drew: Mr. Speaker, I would point out that the hon. member is not permitted to

leave an inference on the record which is wholly inconsistent with the facts. He should know, if he does not know, that the War Measures Act can be invoked only in the event of war or apprehended war, and he should not seek to leave on the record of this house an impression which he knows, or should know, is completely unrelated to the truth.

Mr. Pickersgill: They cannot take it.

Mr. Philpott: I can thoroughly agree with my hon. friend, the Leader of the Opposition, that it would be a most disastrous and fallacious thing for this house to abolish the Defence Production Act and leave ourselves totally dependent on the War Measures Act, which we could not invoke unless there was an actual war, without gravely aggravating the present world crisis. I have tried to listen very carefully to the words of the hon. members of the opposition. Of course, I admit that at times I am confused by the two wings of the opposition. There are two wings to our Conservative opposition over here. There are the Conservatives with whiskers still and the Conservatives to my extreme right with their whiskers shaved off but under certain circumstances their whiskers would grow again very quickly.

Mr. Harkness: That remark shows how little you appreciate the situation.

Mr. Philpott: We do not often get assistance from the two wings of the Conservative party in this house. The only concrete suggestion I have heard from the members of the official Conservative opposition in this house is that there should be a cut-off date in this Defence Production Act.

Mr. Fleming: No, in the powers.

Mr. Philpott: I for one have listened for two whole days, waiting for some member of the official Conservative opposition either to move an amendment or to make a concrete suggestion so that we would have something to go on in this house, but all they do is complain and continue to go around in circles.

Mr. Roland Michener (St. Paul's): Mr. Speaker, the few interventions in this debate by members of the government and by members of other opposition groups have not done very much to clarify the issue which is involved here.

An hon. Member: The confusion is created by the official opposition.

Mr. Michener: The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) seemed to leave the impression that the issue was the length of time which had been taken by the hon. member for Eglinton (Mr. Fleming) in