

Supply—National Defence

Mr. Pouliot: Yes, but he gave that invitation just before he gave his resignation.

Mr. Fraser: His resignation was forced upon him.

Mr. Pouliot: Well, now that I have established the fact I intended to establish, I shall not discuss it further. I have no grudge against a dead man. The only thing I wanted to indicate to the hon. gentleman, who is the great leader of a great party, is that when he indulges in suggestions like those he has made it is very dangerous, because it is informative to the enemy. In my opinion everything concerning strategy should be kept secret; and if the government has not the confidence of the house the only thing to do is vote against it. A distinction should be established between expenditure and strategy. I am sure the hon. member for Nanaimo will agree with me.

Mr. Pearkes: I will tell you whether I agree.

Mr. Pouliot: I do not want to force an agreement upon him; but I like him—

Mr. Knowles: On a question of privilege, Mr. Chairman, I do not wish to get into the argument but out of fairness to the name of Colonel Ralston, which has been mentioned, may I say just now I looked in my pocket and found that I still have the parliamentary identification card and pass which was issued to me by the defence department, and it was dated April 9, 1943. That was at least a year and a half before the date of Colonel Ralston's resignation. We were advised that we could secure these passes and make the visits that were suggested. I am sure the hon. member would like to be fair to Colonel Ralston, and have it confirmed that these invitations were issued some time before his resignation, while he was minister of the department.

Mr. Pouliot: I had a similar card signed by Commissioner Wood of the mounted police, but I never had that invitation. If my hon. friend was invited it was probably because he was in the opposition. The members on the government side had no such invitation.

Mr. Fraser: Yes; it was given personally in the house.

Mr. Pouliot: I tell Peterborough to keep quiet. I am not going to discuss it further, but I stand by what I have said.

Mr. Fraser: You want the truth?

Mr. Pouliot: Oh, no; I referred to it only incidentally, and I will stand by what I have said concerning the statement on the necessity of reinforcements for our troops in France

and the blunder it was to make that statement. It was an error of judgment that cost the lives of many good soldiers.

Mr. Harkness: How do you know?

Mr. Ross (Souris): He does not know what he is talking about.

Mr. Pouliot: I will tell Souris to be as quiet as a mouse.

The Deputy Chairman: Order. I would ask the hon. member when referring to another hon. member to refer to him as the hon. member for Souris, or the hon. member for Kamloops, or whatever it may be.

Mr. Pouliot: I will call them right honourable. I have never put their honesty in doubt. We differ, that is all.

An hon. Member: There is a difference between a mouse and a rat.

Mr. Pouliot: I would ask my hon. friend who benefited from the operation of the rickel company in Norway during the war to keep quiet. He was so happy that those plants were making money in occupied Norway at that time.

Mr. Fulton: Better stick to something you know something about.

Mr. Pouliot: I will tell the babe, who is not Babe Ruth, to keep quiet. It is so easy to arouse the feelings of hon. gentlemen. If we had some cards from the commissioner of the R.C.M.P., I never had any invitation to visit a munition plant during the last war. There is another thing I want to tell the hon. gentleman in all fairness. Apparently he is opposed to an advisory committee or council on manpower. I am opposed to it too, though probably not for the same reasons. With all the information already at the disposal of the Department of Labour and the Department of National Defence I do not see the need of any advisory council on manpower, and in this I agree with him.

There is more to it than that. I will tell the hon. member what are my credentials, what is my power of attorney to discuss these matters in the house. They are a resolution from the county council of Riviere du Loup, another one from the county council of Temiscouata, and another from the city council of Riviere du Loup, all approving the stand I took during the last war and encouraging me to continue to defend the right of the farmer, the man in overalls, the miner, the railwayman and all those occupied in essential industry to the respect of their fellow citizens, to be recognized as essential in war industry and not to be treated as slackers and zombies. I remember that during the last war, with