

*War Appropriation Bill*

the enemy, let us meet in a closed session and get to the bottom of this thing so that we may all work together rather than do what I fancy we are doing now, namely, working critically and somewhat at cross-purposes.

Mr. HOWE: My difficulty is this. I should like to place the reports on the table, particularly because they do not say what they have been quoted in this house as saying—quite the reverse. I should like to give the house the report from Mr. Breech, but unfortunately that was made orally to the war-time requirements board. That report is reflected, I presume, in Mr. MacMillan's report to myself, which is very comprehensive, covering the whole munitions programme. It gives the numbers of everything manufactured up to this time and the probable numbers of everything that will be manufactured up to the end of the fiscal year 1941-42. These are the very figures which Great Britain has asked us particularly not to give out, and a secret session would not materially change the situation because such figures are not given in secret sessions in Great Britain. The figures are highly confidential, giving the number of units that were shipped to Great Britain.

I can say to my hon. friend, however, who believes, as does the leader of the opposition, that the Breech report recommended that the Anson programme should be taken away from Federal Aircraft, that it recommended nothing of the sort. It recommended that it be not taken away from Federal Aircraft. It made one or two recommendations in connection with the organization of Federal Aircraft but said the programme was rapidly rounding into shape. That shows how far afield we can sometimes get.

Mr. COLDWELL: That is why we should get the actual facts.

Mr. HOWE: Perhaps I can lay on the table the part of the report referring to aircraft, but I am afraid that hon. members would then ask for the rest of it, and I should have to say that I could not make public the rest because it contains figures which must be kept confidential. We have a censorship to prevent just that sort of information from reaching the enemy. I rather imagine, though, if hon. members would like the aircraft section of the report, that I can lay it on the table, and I shall be very glad to do so.

So far as the report of Mr. Breech is concerned, I have never seen it. It was made orally, I think. I have questioned Mr. MacMillan and Mr. Henry, who accompanied Mr. Breech, and I have every reason to believe that the views of Mr. Breech are reflected in Mr. MacMillan's report.

[Mr. Coldwell.]

Mr. BLACK (Cumberland): But the minister will admit that the Avro-Anson production of planes is many months behind schedule.

Mr. HOWE: No. There was never the slightest thought in anyone's mind that we would get the first Avro-Anson plane before the end of February, 1941. We expected them to be delivered at the end of February. The first plane has been flown but it has not been delivered. I do not care to predict when production will come. Perhaps I had better leave that until I make a statement on the company. All I will say now is that we never anticipated having Avro-Anson planes of Canadian manufacture delivered at this date. Any delay in the air training programme—and I shall discuss that later—largely arises from the fact that, as you have heard my colleague state, the training was advanced by six months at this school and by six months at that school and the whole programme advanced by one year. We simply cannot advance our production as rapidly as it is possible to advance the school training. However, we are not doing too badly in meeting the situation, as I think hon. members will agree when I deal with that subject. Any present-day shortage of training planes has nothing to do with the Avro-Anson production, because no production from that source was contemplated by this time, and no statement ever was made or can be found to the contrary.

Mr. McIVOR: Our aeroplane factory at Fort William is turning out two and three Hurricanes a day. The plant is humming and speeding up production and there is every hope that production will reach more than two or three Hurricanes a day. That is pretty good considering what went before.

Mr. COLDWELL: It shows that more of these plants should be established on the prairies and in the west.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: Referring to the statement which the minister was making to the committee about an hour ago, could he not secure the permission of the house to have the rest of the statement placed on *Hansard* without reading it?

Mr. HOWE: I shall be glad to hand the material to the reporters for inclusion in *Hansard*.

(The statement follows):