

Defence Production Act

next spring and say, "Here are the conditions; in the light of these conditions these are the powers which the government needs under this act to deal with the problems of defence production."

Is it completely impossible that the meeting which is about to take place at Geneva could conceivably lay the foundation for some wider understanding which perhaps would at least stabilize the position throughout the world? Surely every one of us must hope that at some time in the future, the sooner the better, a *modus vivendi* between the free world and the communist world will be established. There have been times in days gone by when systems just as different as those we see today have found it possible to live in the same world without going to war against each other.

Not one of us in this chamber in any way approves of the doctrine of communism; but I think every hon. member is always conscious of the fact that our secret weapon against communism is the innate humanity of the people living under communism, which some day may assert itself. Less than 3 per cent of the people of Russia are members of the communist party. Ninety-seven per cent of the people of Russia are outside that select group of slave-drivers. As we have discovered when we came in contact with them, those Russian people have ordinary human sympathies, desires, hopes and aspirations not unlike our own, greatly though they may be limited at this time.

It should be our hope that this meeting at the summit to take place in Geneva so soon may at least produce cracks in the iron curtain. We might trust that through those cracks there would permeate the reinvigorating breath of understanding and new hope and a greater measure of sympathy for the appalling conditions under which those people beyond the iron curtain live today. Those hopes may not become a reality. Certain it is, however, that the Prime Minister of Britain, the President of the United States, the Premier of France and the Premier of Russia are not going to Geneva with all their entourage unless they feel that there is at least some hope of finding common ground to ease the pressures which today are expressed in our huge appropriation in this country for defence expenditure.

How much better it would be if we waited until next spring and at that time—with the Geneva meeting behind us, with the discussions that will take place in the ensuing months also behind us, and with a clear picture of the possibilities of understanding between the east and the west—decided what powers were needed. At that time let there

[Mr. Drew.]

be no doubt that we will give the same assurance we have given now. We will support the continuance of the Department of Defence Production and, under appropriate limits as to time and scope, we will support whatever legitimate powers are needed by the Minister of Defence Production to give to our defence forces the very best equipment and supplies they need. Let there be no uncertainty on that score.

The government could come before us now and say, "We have had a lengthy debate. We have already indicated that we do not agree with the views expressed by the opposition. Nevertheless we believe that in the best interests of an orderly examination of this act, which in its existing form will continue in force well past the termination of the next session—or at least let us hope so—at that time we shall be able, in a more orderly manner, to examine the powers which should be given." If the government did that it would be showing responsibility. If the government did that it would be showing its respect for parliament. If the government did that it would be showing its respect for the rule of law.

Not one single word has been said by anyone supporting the government in this debate to explain why these matters could not be deferred until next session. Not a single word of explanation has been given. Nor has anyone given a single explanation of any kind as to why these things which the government says are so important—such as the construction of guided missiles, supersonic aircraft, supersonic engines and matters of that kind—could not be placed before parliament in the ordinary way. Not one single word of explanation has been said on that matter. May I repeat that not a single word has been said in support of this strange provision under which this government could set up crown companies without parliament knowing about it—

Mr. Proudfoot: That is your opinion.

Mr. Drew: Mr. Speaker, if someone else wishes to speak, I will stand aside for the moment.

Mr. Knowles: If the Leader of the Opposition is through—

Mr. Drew: No. Someone spoke on the other side.

Mr. Proudfoot: I said, "That is your opinion".

Mr. Drew: Mr. Speaker, I am glad to have relayed to me what was only a noisy mumble. I now find that the words spoken by the hon. member who was sitting down, contrary to the rules, were "That is your opinion".