

*Defence Production Act*

**Mr. Fleming:** A distinction without a difference.

**Mr. Philpott:** We have had enough misquotations. If the remarks of the Minister of Defence Production or of Lord Acton or even of Cleopatra, referred to by the hon. member for Eglinton (Mr. Fleming), are going to be quoted, let us have the quotations correct.

It seems to me that there are a few questions which have to be asked about this particular bill. The first is whether there is a world emergency. One day we hear the hon. gentlemen on the Conservative benches opposite shouting to high heaven that our armed forces are not good enough, that we should have a bigger army, a bigger navy, a bigger air force and a bigger everything else to meet the urgent communist menace, and then in the next breath saying that there is no emergency at all, that we do not need any Defence Production Act, that everything is sweet and lovely, that we should all relax and go to sleep for 20 years like Rip Van Winkle; when that happens we do not know whether the Conservatives are coming or going or continuing to go around in circles.

There is a world emergency and it is perhaps the most serious emergency there has ever been in the history of the world. While the political picture in Europe is tending to get better, the very fact that it has got better means that there will be a greater emergency across the northern boundaries of Canada. I do not think that any defence production minister in any country of the world has a more difficult and intricate job to do than our own Minister of Defence Production here in Canada. Let us give him the tools to do the job and do it right.

I submit that whatever else hon. gentlemen may want to say about the Minister of Defence Production it must be admitted that he has the experience that is needed to do this job. He knows how to do a job when he takes on a job as a result of 20 years' experience. He says that he needs these tools to do the job so I say we should give him the tools to carry on that job.

This brings me to another contradictory point. I am frankly amazed at some of my hon. friends who sit on the Conservative benches. Not only do they blow hot and cold as to the world emergency, not only do they say one day that we need a bigger air force and so on and then the next day say that we need no Defence Production Act at all, I believe they even—

**Mr. Fleming:** May I ask the hon. gentleman what member in this house has said that there was no need for the Defence Production Act?

[Mr. Philpott.]

**Mr. Philpott:** Perhaps I misunderstood the hon. member for Eglinton because in his 110-minute speech—

**Mr. Knowles:** 101 minutes.

**Mr. Philpott:**—he said so much that meant so little that I came to the conclusion his speech was full of sound and iury, signifying nothing. The Minister of Defence Production says he needs these tools to do the job. I say, let us give him the tools and let him finish the job. To get back to the point, my hon. friend is blowing hot and cold. In one breath we are told by the usually intelligent member for Vancouver-Quadra (Mr. Green) that the Minister of Defence Production is thirsting and lusting for power. Then we are told by some other member sitting on the same side of the house that it will be a sorry day for Canada when the present Minister of Defence Production has to give up his job.

The hon. member for Okanagan-Revelstoke (Mr. McLeod) says that it will be such a sorry day for Canada that we will have to have two men to do the job that is now being done by one man, the Minister of Defence Production. The hon. member for Broadview (Mr. Hees) must be needed in Toronto today, because he is away; but he has said that before very long Mr. Howe will have to step down, and when Mr. Howe steps down, they say, there will be some hope for the good old Tories at long last. I might say, what a vain hope! But we will let that pass.

Today we have to answer some very simple questions. Is there a world emergency? Of course there is a world emergency. Is Canada vitally concerned in the world emergency? Of course, Canada is vitally concerned in the world emergency. Do we need a ministry of defence production? Of course, we need a ministry of defence production. Do we need to make that department stable? How else can you have an efficient department? How else can you have people work for you willingly unless you make it stable?

Then I come to the final *pièce de résistance* of my hon. friends, the illogical members of the main opposition, who say, "Let us forget all about this Defence Production Act and wipe it off the statute books; after all, if anything very bad happens, let us invoke the War Measures Act." I have heard that from four different sources.

**Mr. Fleming:** Mr. Speaker, may I ask the hon. gentleman if he is suggesting that some member in this house has said that the War Measures Act should be invoked? No member in this debate has said the War Measures