

Defence Production Act

of parliament if the minister and his colleagues would undertake to go all through this matter once again. We would be happy if they would look for places where they could meet the suggestion made from all sides of the house, or perhaps to be more specific I should say from all parts of this side of the house.

It stands to reason that members of parliament, particularly members of the opposition, who speak in debates in the house are required to do many hours of study for every 15 minutes during which they speak.

Mrs. Shipley: One would never suspect it.

Mrs. Fairclough: You are entitled to your opinion, my friend. I have run across some interesting parallels, and I am sure the minister himself will be interested in a story about a namesake of his, with which he must be very familiar. During the war of 1812, which was the last war of aggression when Canada was in danger of invasion by a more powerful neighbour, the gentleman to whom I refer was engaged, though not in defence of Canada. It was at that time that the threat of invasion from the United States was as real to Canadians as the threat of invasion of the northern part of this country by the Russians is today. Stephen Decatur, the American hero, from whom the Minister of Defence Production takes his middle name, was a commander—

An hon. Member: Time.

Mrs. Fairclough: My time is not up yet; don't get excited. He was a commander in the United States navy and was, as well, a brilliant and personable officer and, like the minister, a great scrapper. I do not know whether he was romantic, because I did not live at that time. It just shows how brief a century and a half is in the life of a nation when—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. I regret to interrupt the hon. member, but I must advise her that her time has expired.

Mrs. Fairclough: Mr. Speaker, I took very careful note of my time. I commenced speaking between 15 and 10 minutes to six o'clock. I do not see how my time could possibly have expired.

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): Three minutes overtime.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I must say I have always found the officials at the table extremely accurate in their timing. May I inform the hon. member that she commenced speaking at 5.41 and stopped at 5.58 and that therefore she spoke 17 minutes before six

o'clock. Then she resumed this evening at 8.03 and I interrupted her at 8.26, which makes 40 minutes in all.

Mrs. Fairclough: Mr. Speaker, I am very sorry, but may I just state—

Some hon. Members: Time.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. I understand the hon. member is requesting unanimous consent to exceed the 40 minutes.

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): No, no.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Has the hon. member unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: No.

Mrs. Fairclough: Then I bow to your ruling, Mr. Speaker, and I shall give this document to one of my confreres.

Miss Margaret Aitken (York-Humber): Mr. Speaker, as you can see, on this side of the house we have been following and participating in this debate with great gusto.

Mrs. Shipley: And very little else.

Miss Aitken: Personally, Mr. Speaker, I am exceedingly proud of my colleagues for their sincerity, their tenacity, their originality—

Mrs. Shipley: Their repetition.

Miss Aitken: —and the calibre of their speeches. I am also extremely proud of our leader, the Leader of the Opposition. I say he gave in this House of Commons yesterday a speech such as few, if any, other men in public affairs in Canada could have delivered.

An hon. Member: Thank God.

Miss Aitken: Mr. Speaker, we are fighting for a principle that is as old as Magna Carta. Nor do I feel that we have been fighting alone. It has not been a lonely battle, though it was at first. This is something that can and does affect all Canadians. We have been accused of conducting a filibuster. Without bias or prejudice, there was an interesting editorial in the *Toronto Telegram* last night in which it was said that this has not been a filibuster.

Mrs. Shipley: May I ask the hon. member a question? Would she mind telling us how anything in the *Toronto Telegram* could be without bias?

Miss Aitken: I did not use that expression with respect to the *Toronto Telegram*. I meant without bias or prejudice on my part.

Mrs. Shipley: May I ask another question; how could that be?

Miss Aitken: As I was saying, the Conservative party was commended for conducting a spirited opposition against those