

Defence Production Act

Mr. Speaker: May I interrupt the hon. member again. He is about to give us his fifth quotation. I heard several quotations yesterday. The hon. member for Queens (Mr. MacLean) gave us quite a few quotations from a certain book, "The Urge to Persecute", and from another book, "Faith and Freedom". Now the hon. member for Brandon-Souris is giving us a review of a book by Keeton, "The Passing of Parliament". He has quoted from a government publication, and now he is about to quote from another book. I understand that it substantiates some of the points he is making. According to the rules he must present his arguments in his own words, not in the words of others. The hon. member may say, "Well, yesterday you allowed quotations to be made; why should you not allow them today?" He said a moment ago, "You allowed repetition in other debates; why do you not allow it now?" I understand that I have to bear the onus of that negligence, but there comes a time when it becomes so obvious that intervention is sometimes helpful.

I am sure the hon. member is not doing this purposely and does not want to take advantage of the rule. Therefore I am again merely pointing out to him that he has given us five quotations, and my remarks might serve to indicate to him that for the remainder of his remarks there should not be another five or six quotations.

Mr. Dinsdale: I am beginning to feel a bit frustrated as I keep running into these technical hurdles. Again I am amazed at the ruling because, as I have said in the house on former occasions, I have heard lengthy quotations read and no difficulty has been encountered. I would say that some of the points I have made have been more by way of paraphrase than direct quotation, and I shall paraphrase the gentleman to whom I referred, who reminds his readers that the power of the cabinet is now such that during world war II we had a regime which was nothing less than a dictatorship by consent. I feel that the exceptional powers in this legislation are perpetuating this unhappy condition.

If I may refer to a personal experience which involves an historical character, I think I can do so without infringing on the rule that we must not quote too freely. During the last war I had the privilege of going to the continent quite soon after the liberation of France. In fact the battle was still raging furiously in the Cherbourg peninsula. Hon. members are all aware of the stakes that were involved in that conflict. We went across the channel to try to establish direct

[Mr. Dinsdale.]

contact with mobile radar installations under whose direction our particular squadron was operating. At the tip of the Cherbourg peninsula we were housed in the chateau de Tocqueville.

I was quite thrilled at that experience because, as hon. members will recall, de Tocqueville was one of the outstanding historians of the early nineteenth century. Over a hundred years ago he had foreseen just the unhappy state of affairs that modern democracies find themselves in today as they are confronted with crisis after crisis. In his writings on democracy in the Americas he pointed to four dangers that would be faced by American democracies within the foreseeable historical future.

The first point was the possibility of responsibility in government being bartered for security. The second point was the danger of democracy degenerating into majority rule, a form of oligarchy, and that is a question that has already been referred to by the hon. member for Prince Albert, who mentioned the tyranny of the majority in reference to this discussion. The third point was that dull uniformity would tend to depress the exercise of individual will; in other words, a trend toward a mass society would tend to deaden individual responsibility, and the individual would be willing to acquiesce in anything so long as his security could be guaranteed.

The fourth point was that increasing complexity of national life would lead to the necessity for a rigid autocracy. I thought it was ironical, Mr. Speaker; the night we stayed in the chateau de Tocqueville we were housed in the library. Incidentally the chateau had been occupied by the nazi forces until just a few days previously, and it was interesting to discover that the library of that great historian had been very carefully preserved even by the nazi forces. They at least had respect for the contributions of this outstanding man toward a better understanding of our democratic processes, yet there was a strange irony of fate. Here just a hundred years later a country which at the time that de Tocqueville had written was the centre of liberty, equality and fraternity, had fallen for several years under the iron heel of a dictator, a situation which he had prophesied in his writings a hundred years earlier.

It has been interesting, Mr. Speaker, to see the enthusiastic manner in which the members of the C.C.F. party have embraced this legislation. I was very interested in the speech of the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre, because I saw him in a new