

Establishment of Industry Department

anything else for the Department of Trade and Commerce. The only department that is going to be affected directly by this legislation is the Department of Defence Production, which has not quite such a long history.

Mr. Nowlan: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the reference of the Secretary of State. There have been so many funerals around here in the last few days in departments of other ministers that I certainly appreciate his comments in this regard. But in any event, whether the minister minimizes it or not, I suggest to the house leader, through you, sir, that this legislation which is before us tonight does minimize, and minimize substantially, the area, shall I say the prerogative, which heretofore had been occupied by the minister and the Department of Trade and Commerce. When I say that I am not reflecting in any way at all upon the minister, who I understand from press references and in moving the bill this afternoon would, if parliament sees fit to pass this legislation, become minister of the new department of industry. I can pay my tribute to him. Going back over a good many years, when I was not even a member of the House of Commons, I came to him when he was a deputy minister of a department, and may I say that he was an exceptionally able deputy. I have never forgotten the good advice, suggestions, consultations and conferences which we had. If it is necessary to have a department of industry presided over by a minister, I am quite sure that the man who has been suggested, in other words the Minister of Defence Production (Mr. Drury), could not be bettered. If the proposed minister, the present Minister of Defence Production, and I could sit down in the secret conclaves of my room over a glass of lemon juice, or something of that kind, where we could discuss the organization of this department, my guess is that he would be the first to suggest that there should not be the bifurcation which is now taking place within the department.

Mr. Pickersgill: Did the hon. gentleman say lemon juice or Lemon Hart?

Mr. Nowlan: At this early hour of the evening, Mr. Speaker, I do not know how the hon. gentleman from Newfoundland, whose mind naturally goes to concoctions to which we in Nova Scotia are not addicted, could even think of Lemon Hart; but if he has that in mind, far be it for me to disillusion him, because it is only three minutes to

[Mr. Pickersgill.]

ten and I am sure he would be able to clarify his mind on that situation.

However, I really have a tremendous sympathy for the present Minister of Defence Production under this bill, which we will be discussing further, depending upon the agreements reached between the house leaders, I presume tomorrow morning. All of us in this house remember the way in which he stood up in his place a few days ago, having come back from Washington and told us of the problems with which he had been confronted, how he hoped that we could engage in more sales of defence mechanisms to the United States, how we had to accommodate the Americans by buying more from them. But we were assured by the minister in charge of defence production that there was a reasonable chance that Canada might engage in selling proportionately as much to the Americans; that we might maintain an uneasy balance in view of the balance of payments problems.

Now, in addition to that, the hon. gentleman, who is obviously overworked in trying to accomplish that end, has to concern himself with something about area development, whatever that may mean—and in that matter I would refer him to the way the provinces have dealt with this problem. And then he has to deal with the overriding problem of developing the industrial life of this country. I have heard of superman, but certainly the Minister of Defence Production, if the press reports are right and if he has to deal with these problems with which I have suggested he may be confronted, deserves the prayers and best wishes of all members of the House of Commons.

With that, Mr. Speaker, may I call it ten o'clock?

Some hon. Members: Carried.

Mr. Nowlan: Mr. Speaker, I hear some hon. members saying "carried". We are not at this stage concluding the obsequies of a department which has rendered so much to the service of Canada. May I call it ten o'clock.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Churchill: Would the house leader give us some information with regard to future plans?

Mr. Pickersgill: I would be very happy to. I have conferred with hon. gentlemen opposite and I think there is a general disposition to accept a suggestion that was made in fact last Friday, I think by the hon. member for Digby-Annapolis-Kings, that perhaps we