

*War Appropriation Bill*

stand that certain reports have been made to the department. If we are to get a clear picture of the condition of the aircraft industry, these reports should be placed on the table of the house so that we can read them. I understand, for example, that a report has been made by one Ernest R. Breech, chairman of the board of the North American Aviation company, and that that report contains some pungent and vital criticisms of the aeroplane industry and of the department in relation to it. A short time ago I noticed that the Minister of National Defence for Air stated that the empire air training scheme could not be proceeded with at the rate that had been hoped for, on account of the fact that certain training planes were unavailable and that we would not be turning them out sufficiently—

Mr. POWER: I specifically stated that that had nothing to do with the production of Anson aeroplanes.

Mr. COLDWELL: Let me just finish.

Mr. POWER: I did not want the hon. member to get away with that.

Mr. COLDWELL: The minister can correct me if I am wrong. The minister says that that has nothing to do with the Department of Munitions—

Mr. POWER: No, not at all. If the hon. member would listen to me he would hear what I said.

Mr. COLDWELL: Well, certainly his statement was to the effect that the third group, I think it was—I am speaking entirely from memory—could not begin and proceed with their training because we were short of the necessary training equipment.

Mr. POWER: If my hon. friend will permit me, I did add at that time that that delay was not due to the delay in the production of Canadian-built Anson aircraft; that they were not expected at this time.

Mr. COLDWELL: That may be so, but may I point this out—

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): When does the minister expect them?

Mr. POWER: Pretty soon.

Mr. COLDWELL: In view of the condition which has developed across the sea during the last six or eight months, the situation in our own aeroplane industry, from all we can find out about it, is deplorable. I do not know the number of planes that is being turned out in the various plants, but I do know something of the condition of some of the plants in this country. The hon. member

[Mr. Coldwell.]

for Fraser Valley spoke a few minutes ago of the Boeing plant in British Columbia. I believe the statement he made is in accordance with the facts. We know something about the Malton plant near Toronto.

Mr. HOWE: What do you know about it?

Mr. COLDWELL: Well, we will tell the minister about it on Monday.

Mr. GARDINER: We may be here three hours to-night. Why not to-night?

Mr. COLDWELL: Well, to-night, if it is necessary. I said that because, a little earlier this afternoon, I was asked if we would agree to the house rising at six o'clock, to which I assented. That is why I made the suggestion that it be Monday.

The Minister of Munitions and Supply has told this house on more than one occasion that certain branches of our war effort and of the provision of supplies were in production and that we were away ahead of schedule; and then we find out that as a matter of fact we are not ahead of schedule, or, if we are, the schedule calls really for nothing at all and therefore we must be ahead of it. I am suggesting this. I believe that a number of reports have been made. I understand that there is a report to the minister on this particular matter from the war requirements board. If we are to discuss these matters intelligently, all these documents should be on the table of the house so that we can go into them. The time has come when this parliament has got to get at all the information. Some of us for the last six months—

Mr. GARDINER: What was the hon. member doing two years ago?

Mr. COLDWELL: What was I doing two years ago? I will answer that question.

Mr. ROSS (Moose Jaw): Holding up all the estimates that had anything to do with it.

Mr. COLDWELL: I would like to say to the hon. member who interrupted me that we were adopting a realistic view of the situation as it then was—

Mr. GARDINER: A little foresight would have been better, with the situation as it then was.

Mr. COLDWELL: —and since then events have entirely changed the picture. As the minister knows, we had no confidence in those who had betrayed democracy and collective security all through the years, and until there was a change of government we feared that we might be involved in a struggle which was not for democracy. One of the reasons