

Defence Production Act

Mr. Speaker, such rights are an absolute denial of our constitution. I am now beginning to understand why the socialists rushed to the defence of their Liberal brethren in order to ensure that this dictatorial measure be permanently written into our statutes. These people, the socialists, have come to the aid of their Liberal brethren, knowing full well that the only way they can manacle the Canadian people is to ensure the passage of socialistic legislation which would paralyse private enterprise in this country, legislation such as is exemplified by sections 28 and 30, to mention only those two concrete examples.

Like this government, they never miss a single opportunity to make our country move towards the single central government and to put the provinces under its thumb.

The act as it stands endangers the prerogatives of parliament and the rights and prerogatives of the provinces. Moreover, Mr. Speaker, it is not justified by the present world situation, and its permanent inclusion in our statutes would weaken our constitution and the democratic ideals guaranteed by the constitution.

For all these reasons, I shall vote against this bill.

Mr. Boisvert: Will the hon. member permit me a question?

Mr. Balcer: If you get any fun out of it, go ahead.

Mr. Pouliot: This is going to be a press conference.

Mr. Boisvert: Does the hon. member agree that in 1951 the act, with the powers it confers, was necessary?

Mr. Balcer: We needed it at the time to ensure our defence but we certainly did not need such ridiculous powers as are requested by the adoption of sections 28 and 30. Besides there was a state of emergency at the time.

Mr. Gauthier (Portneuf): But in 1951?

Mr. Pouliot: It is the first time you are saying this; you did not say so before.

Mr. Gauthier (Portneuf): What was the emergency at the time?

Mr. Boisvert: May I ask a question—

Mr. Balcer: Make your own speech.

Mr. Boisvert: —a supplementary question?

Mr. Balcer: Go on, you have the floor.

Mr. Gauthier (Portneuf): Why don't you reply?

Mr. Boisvert: You just said there was a state of emergency—

(Text):

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Applewhaite): Order. I think the time has come for me to point out that the hon. member for Nicolet-Yamaska (Mr. Boisvert) may, if he sees fit and with the permission of the hon. member for Three Rivers (Mr. Balcer), ask a question, in which case when the question has been asked I suggest the hon. member for Nicolet-Yamaska should resume his seat and the hon. member for Three Rivers should come to his feet if he is going to answer the question.

(Translation):

Mr. Pouliot: He did not get this out of his own head, Mr. Speaker.

(Text):

Mr. Boisvert: Mr. Speaker, may I ask the hon. member if he would answer a supplementary question to the question I have already asked?

Mr. Balcer: I shall be pleased to answer it.

(Translation):

Mr. Boisvert: Is the hon. member for Three Rivers (Mr. Balcer) aware that a high-ranking officer of the Royal Canadian Air Force is said to have stated last Thursday that war could not be avoided?

Mr. Balcer: I think I saw it in the papers.

Mr. Gauthier (Portneuf): That, of course, is more annoying.

Mr. Balcer: Was that your question?

Mr. Gauthier (Portneuf): That's not so sure.

Mr. Boisvert: Hear, hear.

(Text):

Mr. G. W. Montgomery (Victoria-Carleton): I should like to make it clear at the beginning, Mr. Speaker, that it is not my intention to attack the present minister, nor to advocate that parts of this bundle of legislation that has been placed before us should be abolished. In common with the hon. member for Calgary North (Mr. Harkness), I believe there is a principle involved upon which I feel I must express an opinion.

Before coming to that, however, I should like to give the reason why I am quite prepared to consider the government justified in asking for the continuation of the department. I think the Prime Minister, when he introduced the resolution on March 10, gave us a good explanation as to why the department should be continued. I do not want to read all of what he said, but there are a few lines I should like to quote in order to show