

Defence Production Act

never been a rule of the house that hon. members have to submit quietly to being bored. Any hon. member who cannot keep the attention of the house should resume his seat.

Mr. Fleming: Is that why the minister has sat down?

Mr. Pickersgill: I got the attention of the house.

Mr. Speaker: May I ask hon. members not to give any cause for a request for order. The hon. Leader of the Opposition spoke about an uproar.

An hon. Member: There is no uproar.

Mr. Speaker: I think his remarks are exaggerated. I ask hon. members on both sides of the house to maintain order and, if they make interruptions, not to make them in a disorderly fashion. I should like to hear the Leader of the Opposition continue his speech.

Mr. Drew: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Pickersgill: Where is the uproar now?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Drew: Mr. Speaker, one of the happiest events of this morning is to find the return of the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration to an interest in what is taking place. Nevertheless, he has propounded a new freedom.

An hon. Member: Order.

Mr. Drew: Does the hon. member wish to raise a question of order? If so, I shall stand aside while he does so.

An hon. Member: Wasting time.

Mr. Drew: I shall gladly stand aside while the hon. member raises the question of order.

Mr. Speaker: May I respectfully ask the Leader of the Opposition to speak to the principle of this bill?

Mr. Drew: Mr. Speaker, I shall speak to the principle of this bill and intend to do so with some opportunity for my remarks to be heard. I was just about to say we have had a new principle of freedom asserted by the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, and that is freedom from being bored. I would suggest, if he does not feel it is his duty to sit in the house, that he get out and read his letters some place else.

An hon. Member: You are still not talking to the bill.

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Speaker, the other day the hon. gentleman talked about Oliver Cromwell. Now he is trying to expel members from the house.

[Mr. Pickersgill.]

Mr. Speaker: It will not be possible to have a continuation of this debate in a reasonable way if hon. members keep rising on points of order or if the Leader of the Opposition, who has the floor, keeps inviting members to rise on points of order. I would hope that from now on we might listen to the Leader of the Opposition speak to the principle of this bill.

Mr. Drew: Mr. Speaker, I pointed out that the question before the house is one which has been presented by the Prime Minister and was placed before the house at the time of the second reading on his behalf by the Minister of Defence Production. As hon. members will recall, at the point before they started interrupting me I had referred to an article in today's *Montreal Gazette* containing the heading "Howe says no to compromise." This is an article by a gentleman who I think I can say with the utmost sincerity is one of the most highly regarded members of the press gallery. He refers in factual detail to the negotiations which were supposed to have taken place in regard to some compromise settlement of the debate before the house. I notice another heading reading "Bitterness between Howe and Drew?" This article, written by Mr. Arthur Blakely, reads:

Reason for the breakdown of negotiations, it is understood, is the bitterness marking Mr. Howe's personal relations with Opposition Leader Drew and some of his lieutenants.

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): Disregard all that and carry on. I would not bother to be worried one iota about your relations with me.

Mr. Drew: I am glad the Minister of Defence Production agrees entirely with me that it is an entirely incorrect interpretation of our personal relationship. The fact is that we have the most cordial relations outside the house.

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): Speak for yourself.

Mr. Drew: Those relations would be equally cordial inside the house if the Minister of Defence Production carried forward the debates in this house in a manner which did not invite comments of the nature that have been made and which he apparently does not like. Referring to the Minister of Defence Production, Mr. Arthur Blakely goes on to say:

He is said to resent personal attacks which have been made on him, and in particular suggestions that he is "dictatorial" and ruthless.

Mr. Speaker, if it becomes necessary for us at any point to emphasize the significance of the act which is supported by the Minister of Defence Production, that surely is the duty as well as the right of any hon. member of