

*Defence Production Act*

them. We worked and we produced. It was the free peoples of the world, the free nations who supplied the materials. We were able to send the things that were required, munitions, food and everything else, to Russia at the time when she needed those very things. It was by virtue of that that she was able to take her stand and turn back Hitler and all the forces. All those things were combined against her at the time, but because we were a free people, because we were producing for our freedom, because we were ready and willing and anxious to move to preserve those things that we have had in this nation for generations, we were able to help her.

I do not think that this is a thoroughly bad bill. The party to which I belong appreciates that there can be circumstances when there should be legislation of this kind. But this thing means so much and is so vital to the economic life of this country, the development of the economic life, that industry should be given a free hand. When we talk about industry we do not just mean the managerial side, we do not mean the people at the top, we mean those men and women who go to form part of industry. They should not be faced with any compulsion or any dictation, because after all we have fought for the freedom to go into enterprise, for the right to compete.

For that very reason alone and in order to substantiate and uphold and preserve the economic life of this country it would seem to me that the minister, who is a man of business, who is a man of wide experience, would be one person who would be glad, who would be anxious—a tremendous responsibility is laid on his shoulders—to come back to this parliament, and to go back to the people of this country, and review what has happened in the years. Why should he not come back and tell us what the development of this nation has been? He says to us that there are tremendous developments ahead as far as defence is concerned.

We have to learn in this country that we have to combine these things. Not only is there a need for defence; the fact is that this Defence Production Act should be geared, should be drawn, to meet the future situation of this country. In fact I think the whole thing should be reviewed each time, the whole approach to industry in this nation, our whole attitude and approach to the development of this country. After all, every part of this country must be developed. The maritimes require development as well as the western provinces. My hon. friends to my left who come from there have been asking that industry should be moved out

into those provinces so that they may be developed. That is what should be done.

The time has come actually when we should consider not only this act but a whole review of the defence and civil development and the economic development of this country. Those two things must go hand in hand. As I said before, and I come back to it, with his experience, having dealt with these matters for 16 years, knowing the difficulties with which we are faced in this nation, knowing the keen competition that exists, knowing that industry must be built up, knowing that industry must be given opportunities, knowing that industry must be encouraged, I should think the minister would be glad to welcome the opportunities to do the very thing we ask, the thing which is at the root of all this argument, and come back to this house in a stated period of time and review what has been done, review the situation, civil and defence in this country, and make suggestions to us. We are glad to have these suggestions and we are glad to follow them.

It is very strange and I for one cannot understand why the minister should object to coming back to this parliament and giving the representatives of the people of this country the information to which they are entitled. He should come back and tell us what is going on, what progress is being made, what is required, and so on. If we are living in such dangerous times, surely, if as has been said, there is some emergency, is not that the time of all times that the problems of production, the problems of defence production, should be shared? Is it not time that those problems should be shared with parliament, should be shared with the representatives of the people of this country?

I am certain that the minister knows that never at any time over the years has he been refused powers or rights to carry on until this particular time. Speaking the other day the minister told us what he had accomplished, and there is no question about that; we have never at any time under any circumstances tried to detract from that. He told us that never over the years was he unable to produce what he had been required to produce in munitions, that he had been able to produce those things within a reasonable time.

Sometimes when I hear these things I become a little confused as to just what is the true over-all position. Every hon. member sitting in this house today should remember what we owe to the men and women who put forth great efforts during the second world war. If it had not been for the efforts