Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Argue: Are the laws being enforced?

Mr. Churchill: I said there has been no abandonment of the law, which in other words means that the law is being enforced.

DEFENCE PRODUCTION

CANADAIR—REFERENCE TO FIGHTER PLANE
CONTRACT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. D. M. Fisher (Port Arthur): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Defence Production relating to the contract for fighter planes awarded to Canadair last year. Has it been found necessary to revise the contract price upward, and if so is it now above the bids put in by de Havilland and A. V. Roe?

Hon. Raymond O'Hurley (Minister of Defence Production): The answer is no.

DOMINION-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS

NEWFOUNDLAND—INQUIRY AS TO STATEMENT BY MINISTER OF FINANCE

On the orders of the day:

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Bonavista-Twillingate): I wonder if I may ask the Minister of Finance whether it is correct that he stated in Newfoundland that the government intended to restore the rights of the province under term 29 of the terms of union?

Hon. Donald M. Fleming (Minister of Finance): I must decline to accept that bait. The fact is that when I was in Newfoundland I quoted the language of the statute that was passed at the 1959 session of parliament. I also pointed out that this government honours the instructions of parliament and the decisions of this house. That will be done during the forthcoming conference.

Mr. Pickersgill: In other words the minister did not undertake to restore the rights of Newfoundland.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): That, of course, is not only an intolerable but an untrue gloss upon the truth. The fact is that the action taken by parliament last year was, as this parliament decided, completely in accord with the provisions of the terms of union and the recommendations of the royal commission. There is no repudiation. The hon. member has no right in fact or in truth to make such an assertion. What was undertaken at that time was written into the statute law of this country, and that statute law will be carried out; let there be no doubt about that.

Mr. Pickersgill: That is an intolerable gloss on the facts.

[Mr. Churchill.]

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): That is an intolerable excuse for a question on the orders of the day.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Hon. members may recall that the house spent some time last session in the same debate that now seems to be developing.

HUMAN RIGHTS

MEASURE PROVIDING FOR RECOGNITION AND PRO-TECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDA-MENTAL FREEDOMS

The house resumed, from Tuesday, July 5, consideration of the motion of Mr. Diefenbaker for second reading of Bill No. C-79, to provide for the recognition and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Hon. E. D. Fulton (Minister of Justice): In the few minutes during which I spoke on Tuesday evening I gave a necessarily brief outline of the approach of the government and the legislative scheme which we had in mind in drafting and submitting this bill of rights to parliament. My remarks in this connection will be found at page 5789 of Hansard.

During the same few minutes I also attempted to indicate the true nature of the alleged concern expressed by the Leader of the Opposition in his opening speech with regard to the necessity of amending the War Measures Act to remove from the governor in council the power of revoking citizenship by order in council. I indicated that this was a shallow concern, in that the Leader of the Opposition overlooked the fact that it was his government which when it first introduced the citizenship act, provided six reasons for which the governor in council could revoke the citizenship of naturalized Canadians. I also pointed out that the present government, in the amendment recently enacted, had eliminated all but one of those grounds, so that now, in effect, citizenship can only be revoked when it, or naturalization, was obtained on the basis of false or fraudulent misrepresentation or deliberate concealment of facts. As a result of those amendments the only other situation in which citizenship can now be revoked is where a naturalized person, being charged with treason, absents himself from the country and refuses to return to stand his trial. So the answer to this aspect of the remarks of the Leader of the Opposition is that this present government has shown a proper concern to remove discrimination as between naturalized and natural born Canadians in this respect.

Mr. Pickersgill: Would the hon. gentleman permit a question?