

*Defence Production Act*

this country, headed by any other prime minister and with any other cabinet. He would be the first to object, and I really believe he knows that in his own heart.

Power is an insidious thing. Meditating on this very subject, a famous German philosopher, Ernst Cassirer, who passed away in 1945—a man who, incidentally, had seen the rise and fall of various powers in Europe—in a study which he wrote in the 1940's entitled, "The Myth of the State", included a paragraph which dealt with Plato's "Republic". It produced some very interesting comments. These are meditations of a philosopher of wide experience and great renown. I should like to read into the record just a few sentences of his considered opinion. He said:

Obviously we do not wish for the sake of wishing—we aim at a certain end and we try to attain this end. But the lust of power does not admit of any possible attainment. It is the very character and essence of the will to power that it is inexhaustible. It can never come to a rest; it is a thirst that is unquenchable. Those who spend their lives in this passion are comparable to the Danaïdes: they strive to pour water into a leaking butt. The appetite for power is the clearest example of that fundamental vice that, in Plato's language, is described as "pleonexia"—as the "hunger for more and more". This craving for more and more exceeds all measure and destroys all measure—and since measure, right proportion, "geometrical equality" had been declared by Plato to be the standard of the health of private and public life, it follows that the will to power, if it prevails over all other impulses, necessarily leads to corruption and destruction. "Justice" and the "will to power" are the opposite poles of Plato's ethical and political philosophy. Justice is the cardinal virtue that includes all the other great and noble qualities of the soul; the greed for power entails all fundamental defects. Power can never be an end in itself; for that only can be called a good that leads to a definitive satisfaction, to a concord and harmony.

I wish to comment further on this matter, but I do not know whether I can get much further in the next two minutes. I wonder whether Your Honour would be prepared to call it six o'clock.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

**AFTER RECESS**

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

**Mrs. Fairclough:** As I mentioned on Monday, Mr. Speaker, when I was speaking on the amendment to the main motion, there was an incident in Hamilton which at that time I merely touched on. Since then I have refreshed my memory, and I should like to describe a situation which occurred in my city in the years 1940 and 1941, during the first years of the second world war.

[Mrs. Fairclough.]

At that time the citizens of Hamilton were gravely concerned, as they had good reason to be, over the threat to Hamilton industry, and consequently to the war effort, by reason of communist activity within those industries, and possibly not only within the industries themselves but among the organizations which had sprung up within our city and which directed the members of the communist party who were engaged as workers in the Hamilton plants.

Because of this situation and the concern which was felt generally by the citizens of Hamilton—which, as I said on Monday, is not only an industrial city but is one which is extremely conscious of its duty to government, is extremely patriotic and also within which there are a number of able and renowned military units—these people got together and formed what was known as the Hamilton civil defence organization. They had a fair idea of what might be required of them, and they applied to Ottawa for weapons and other assistance to further their anti-communist campaign, which was largely a matter of guarding against a possible onslaught on industry. They found that neither weapons nor funds were available.

They were not daunted by these circumstances. They went among the citizens of Hamilton and collected funds. I am proud to say that the city of Hamilton contributed also, in addition to the funds which were collected from private individuals and industry. With the funds they collected they planned their campaign. They organized an infantry battalion. I might say that most of the men who served in that battalion were veterans of the first world war. They already knew something of military training and knew something of what was required of them. In order to serve their fellow citizens, they gave their time over and above that which was required of them in the industries in which they were engaged.

As I said, about that time no weapons were available, and there were no armoured vehicles. As a matter of fact Ottawa had said that armoured vehicles could not be produced in Canada. These people proceeded to arm themselves, and they bought in the United States 800 shotguns with which they armed their battalions, and they also bought six Thompson submachine guns. I might point out, as I said a few minutes ago, that these weapons were purchased out of funds subscribed locally. There was no tax money in those funds. There was no exemption from income tax for the people who contributed to those funds. These people purchased these arms out of money which was subscribed. Then on top of the purchase price of those