

*Defence Production Act***ATOMIC ENERGY**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE—INQUIRY AS TO
CANADIAN REPRESENTATION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Donald M. Fleming (Eglinton): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question of the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of a press report that the government of the United Kingdom has accepted an invitation from five European countries to a conference to discuss the use of atomic energy, may I ask if any arrangement is being made whereby Canada might have access to the discussions at that conference, or the information provided there.

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Secretary of State for External Affairs): I am not familiar with the conference to which my hon. friend refers. I do know there will be a conference at Geneva in August, under United Nations auspices, to discuss atomic energy, at which Canada will be adequately represented. I shall however look into the hon. member's question, and give any information regarding that conference when I get it.

DEFENCE PRODUCTION ACTAMENDMENTS RESPECTING SALARY OF MINISTER
AND EXPIRY OF ACT

The house resumed, from Tuesday, July 5, consideration of the motion of Mr. Howe, Port Arthur (for Mr. St. Laurent) for the second reading of Bill No. 256, to amend the Defence Production Act, and the amendment thereto of Mr. Brooks.

Hon. George A. Drew (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, at the time this debate was adjourned last night—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Drew: I want Your Honour to be able to hear what is being said.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Drew: At the time the debate was adjourned last night I had pointed out that one of the very important considerations in examining the effect of this measure is the fact that it is not emergency legislation, in spite of all that has been said. I propose—

Mr. Speaker, I am sorry, but I cannot even hear myself. I cannot even hear my own words at the moment.

An hon. Member: Go ahead.

Mr. Fleming: That's a great help.

Mr. Speaker: May I ask hon. members not to carry on conversations behind the curtains, and hon. members in the house not to create a disturbance.

[Mr. Hodgson.]

Mr. Drew: Mr. Speaker, I propose to continue that discussion; but before doing so I wish to refer to an article in today's issue of the *Montreal Gazette*, because it has a direct bearing on the debate and certain aspects of it. Since the minister has left the chamber—I do not know whether he has started out on another fishing trip or not—and since the Prime Minister is not here, I would hope that the house leader, at some appropriate time, would draw to their attention the comments in this debate which, I would remind them, is being carried forward not at our instance, but at the instance of the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent). We are now dealing with the second reading of a bill which stands in the name of the Prime Minister, and was introduced on behalf of the Prime Minister by the Minister of Defence Production (Mr. Howe). Neither of them is here; therefore I must hope that—

Mr. Pickersgill: We are dealing with an amendment, and the mover has not been here for days.

Mr. Fleming: Fishing, and things like that?

Mr. Pickersgill: No, I refer to your own amendment.

Mr. Drew: I realize of course that the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration (Mr. Pickersgill) has only recently come into the house, and consequently is not yet aware of some of the practices here. But I was pointing out that the discussion was initiated by the Prime Minister, and that whatever amendments may be moved, no matter how many there may be, the fact remains that this debate was initiated by the Prime Minister—I note that now the Minister of Defence Production is returning—who actually brought the matter before the house.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Drew: You know, Mr. Speaker, I have no intention of denying to any hon. member a full opportunity to enjoy himself by making noises, whether they are clear or whether they are not. But so far as any noises from the other side are concerned—

An hon. Member: Answer the question.

Mr. Drew: Oh, I hear the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration coming into the discussion again—but just as an indistinguishable blur, and no words that possibly could find their way to *Hansard*.

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Speaker, on a question of privilege; unlike those raised by the hon. member, this is a genuine question of privilege.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.