

*Defence Production Act*

there are only 50 members on the banking and commerce committee, the majority of whom are Liberals. The government could not lose at all, unless, of course, after the Liberal members sat in committee they began to see the light and felt that the bill should be changed drastically.

I have said the amendment should be adopted by the government. I shall not read it, because the hon. member for Wentworth did so just a moment ago. But it is sufficient to say that it does not take away any of the powers of the minister. I am not a lawyer, and I might be wrong in this, but I feel quite sure I am right when I make that statement. If the bill were sent to the committee on banking and commerce it could be examined by that committee and a report could be made to the house as to the advisability of setting up the department on a permanent basis. That is what the minister has asked for, and that is what this party has agreed to do. I believe other groups in the house have said the same thing. Indeed, I do not think any member would take any different stand.

Part of the amendment says that it would confer on the department such powers as ought to be of a continuing nature. Is there any member in the house who would object to that? I do not think there is. With the committee consisting more than half of Liberal members, the government could be assured that the bill would contain that provision, and that the minister would have all the power he wants.

Then the last paragraph of the amendment would confer for a period of one year, or until extended by parliament, such additional powers as may be strictly necessary in the light of the existing world conditions. And I do not see anything wrong with that. I believe the minister would agree. If international conditions are as good as this government seems to think they are, when it can ship wheat and butter behind the iron curtain—

**Mr. Brown (Essex West):** For cash.

**Mr. Fraser (Peterborough):** An hon. member says "for cash"—but it is not cash in the pocket. It is just cash on the cuff. And you can never tell when one of those iron curtain countries might send a shirt with that cuff to the laundry.

I have said that this is a fair and clean amendment. There is no reason why others should not do as I am going to do, and that is vote for it.

I have taken very little time in this session of parliament, but as I said before I am going to speak for some little time on this

occasion. I hope what I am about to say will have some weight with the minister. I doubt whether it will, but I do hope it will. My personal view is that a short speech is better than a long one. However, neither short nor long speeches seem to have any effect whatsoever on the minister. They roll off him just like water off a duck's back. But we do sincerely hope that by hammering, hammering, hammering at him the minister eventually will give in a little bit, and that our hammering will have some effect on him.

The minister said only a few days ago that the government must insist on this legislation being passed. The Prime Minister did not say that; it was the Minister of Defence Production. It certainly seems as though he will not change his mind. It reminds me of something I saw a few years ago down in New Mexico. There was an old mule, and it would not budge one inch, would not take a step one way or the other until the cowboy lit a fire back of it. Then the mule went forward a few steps. That is all we want the minister to do on this bill, just give in a little. That is all that is necessary for all parties to come to an agreement.

One would think even the weatherman has had something to do with this debate, because he certainly has turned on the heat. We have had temperatures around this building running to near the hundred mark for some days. The minister will find that Her Majesty's loyal opposition can be just as stubborn as he; no matter whether they have to light a fire under us, we can be stubborn. We are going to be stubborn. I suppose I should not put any ideas in the minister's mind, but I feel quite sure he will remember that during the war years we sat through July and into August. One day the temperature outside was running pretty near the century mark. I do not know whether the government did it on purpose, but the steam was turned on in the building and the temperature here rose to near the 105 mark.

**Mr. Howe (Port Arthur):** We are saving that for next week.

**Mr. Fraser (Peterborough):** The minister said he is saving that for next week. I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, despite the fact that members of parliament are not permitted to come into the chamber with their coats off or with Bermuda shorts on, Her Majesty's loyal opposition will be able to stand that heat just as well as the minister. The Minister of Defence Production has given us some reasons why he is going to insist on the passage of this bill. I am not alone in this. There are many of us who feel the same way about it. The minister has