

*National Defence Act Amendment*

war was in many instances no quicker than in the first, not a bit. Again, in the second world war, speed of movement in the areas in which I was operating and which I had the opportunity to observe was no faster than had been the case in the first. It depends on the nature of the situation and on the nature of the ground. We talked in 1939, 1940 and 1941 about tanks going at 20 miles an hour. Well, I saw tanks going at one mile an hour in the month of January, 1945, and they were lucky to make that speed. So when the minister tries to tell us that everything is changed, that we must reach decisions more quickly because we have a single unified force and because we have new equipment, it shows he does not know very much about the actual operations of war.

In that famous speech of his, the minister uses a heading which reads "To Sum Up". That is a bright paragraph heading. This is what he says with regard to the bill:

The object of this bill is not to destroy and erase at one stroke the traditions of the past but to build, on the solid foundation we have forged, a strong and viable force to meet Canada's needs of tomorrow.

Well, we know he has, in fact, destroyed at one stroke the traditions of the past. He has virtually wiped out the navy and its tradition. He has already effectively wiped out the traditions of the air force and the army. He talks about Canada's needs for tomorrow which, in the minister's mind, will be so different from Canada's needs today and are so different from Canada's needs ten years ago. Apparently he had a special perception of the future. Then he goes on to say:

I believe that the present division into three separate service components imposes restrictions and that these barriers should be removed both in the interests of the most effective military forces for the future and in the interest of the men and women who belong to the force.

What are these barriers? He does not tell us, but he goes on to say this:

That is the essence of this bill. It has nothing to do with the question of naval forces, land forces, air forces or even space forces. Rather, it has to do with the management, the strategic and operational planning, the training and support, the capacity of the force to adjust to changing requirements, and the ability of the force to provide meaningful, challenging and rewarding careers for service personnel. All of these needs are enhanced by unification rather than the traditional separation of the men and women who comprise the force into three components.

Well, in that paragraph the minister's brain trust produced quite a bit of gobbledegook—I think that is how it should be categorized. We

are told that the essence of this bill has nothing to do with naval forces, land forces or air forces. I am uncertain as to the minister's real objective. He talks of a single unified force, yet on the other hand he says there will always be sailors, soldiers and airmen.

We have not objected to certain aspects of integration—integration of the supply and administrative services. We have not objected to the training of the high command in the knowledge of operations by land, sea and air. Indeed I think that is essential in order that in combined operations, which are as old as history, our commanders in this modern age may be able to adapt themselves to the use of forces in the three elements. We have not objected to that. But we have objected to the single chief of defence staff, and we are objecting to the single unified force.

Sir, the single unified force seems to us and to people who have been writing about this subject to be designed to promote one aspect only of Canada's defence. I intend to quote from an article written by the former chief of staff, Air Chief Marshal F. R. Miller. He has since retired; I do not know what his attitude is, or was, with regard to unification. At any rate he wrote this article which appeared in the Canadian Forces *Sentinel* of June, 1966. The article is called "The Decisive Years" and it was directed primarily to university undergraduates and senior high school students in order to encourage them to enter the services—an object of which I approve. He says this:

Operationally, Canadian servicemen are being employed more and more in peacekeeping, or "fire brigade", roles.

Later on, he says:

Today the Canadian serviceman is, first and foremost, a man of peace. He is still trained to use his weapons, and use them well, but there has been a subtle change in his prime purpose. Once it was to fight and win. Now he must add the role of preventing or halting bloodshed.

His duty, in essence, is the assertion of the rule of law as well.

Our Canadian servicemen have, very commendably, been undertaking United Nations peace keeping operations in various parts of the world and the policy of this government as expressed by the Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson), the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Martin) and the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Hellyer) seems to be directed toward enlarging Canada's contribution to peace keeping forces for the United Nations.