

of security, and I do not think my hon. friend proposes to have me declare to the world in what lines we shall restrict production, and in what lines we shall increase production of munitions of war. I do not quite understand my hon. friend, but if I have correctly stated what he is asking, my reply is that I cannot give him a statement. Production will be regulated in accordance with need and with the requirement of production facilities for other things.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: Can the minister assure us that there will be no reduction until the reserve army is equipped?

Mr. RALSTON: I cannot give that assurance. There may be some demand which is very much more vital and which may therefore come first.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): Before the minister leaves that point, may I draw his attention to what I think is a marked inconsistency with reference to government policy. As the hon. member for Lake Centre is emphasizing the minister admits to-night, what most of us know, that the reserve army has not been fully equipped with all the weapons it would need in the event of having to take part in repelling an invasion.

Mr. RALSTON: That is to say, all the reserve army are not fully equipped. My hon. friend must remember that there are a good many weapons available to the reserve army.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): That is true, but that statement and that fact stand in very bad contrast with, for instance, the statement which is now reported in the press from the Minister of Munitions and Supply. He is reported from Washington as saying that we are now to be able to turn our production into producing more consumer goods. There is a marked inconsistency between what the Minister of Munitions and Supply says, that we are to be able to turn our productive resources to the manufacture of consumer goods, and the admission of the Minister of National Defence that we have not yet sufficient of the weapons essential for the use of the reserve army to equip them adequately with what they would need to take part in a defensive operation.

Mr. HOWE: Since my name has been mentioned, perhaps my hon. friend will read the dispatch. I have not seen it. Certainly I made no such statement.

The CHAIRMAN: Shall the item carry?

Mr. GREEN: Before item No. 8 carries, will the minister tell us what provision, if any, has been made to supply the troops in

Canada with transport planes for training? We asked that question last year. Apparently at that time Canada had no transport planes at all, so that there was no means of transporting our troops by air. I should like to know whether that is still the position.

For some reason or another, despite the fact that Canadians are a very progressive people, we have not been very progressive in our training methods during this war. It came out last year that we were leaving all our advanced training to be done in Great Britain, just as we did in the war of 1914-18; but as a result of the Hong Kong inquiry and of the condition of our troops when sent to Hong Kong some change was made, and Canada then took up commando training. We have only recently been doing paratroop training. We had to wait until the United States came into the war before we started this training, and then we had to send our troops to the United States to be trained. Now, I think, we have one battalion back here in Canada. We have been very dilatory in putting into effect the most modern types of training for our men. I would ask the minister why it is that Canada has been so long in getting the transport planes and in taking any steps to train air-borne divisions. Some years ago the Germans were doing that, training their men in gliding, and they took Crete by the use of troops of that type. There would seem to be no reason why Canada could not specialize in carrying troops by air and in training air-borne divisions. We have the space; it is much easier to train troops here for that kind of warfare than it is in Great Britain. I should like to know whether we have taken any steps yet in that direction.

Mr. RALSTON: I can only say to my hon. friend that in order to train air-borne troops, transport planes are required.

Mr. GREEN: Why have we not got them?

Mr. RALSTON: My hon. friend had better ask some of the allies why they have not got them on the active fronts. Does my hon. friend think they grow on trees?

Mr. GREEN: They certainly do not grow on trees around here.

Mr. RALSTON: And they do not grow on trees anywhere else, either. My hon. friend just rises in his place and asks the question, as though somebody had been negligent in not having asked for transport planes, as though one could get them off a shelf. I think my hon. friend knows without my saying it that transport aircraft is not yet in