

*Business of the House*

Marshal Miller, Lieutenant General Geoffrey Walsh, Vice Admiral H. S. Rayner. Where are they now? They are cast off. They were useful to the Minister of National Defence when he was launching his plan. They supported him with regard to the white paper. They started off the program of integration. But having squeezed them dry, the minister discarded them. He used their ability, brains and assistance and was grateful for it at the time, and he said so; and the minute those men said, "Slow down. We are not yet ready for unification", he said, "Out". That is what this minister has done to the men who helped him in the days when he really needed help.

Who is helping him now? Not even the Prime Minister. I continue to quote from the article of 1966:

By last July, four admirals, three air marshals and two generals had quit, some helped along with an early retirement bonus. With so many vacancies at the top, Hellyer was able to couple Canadianization with the appointment of a chief of defence staff. He was fortunate to have a widely respected French-Canadian officer, General Jean Allard, available for the job.

Allard's views coincide closely with Hellyer's. He is reputed to believe that only regiments with pure Canadian origins should keep their identities because the others, those with foreign impurities in their histories, have nothing Canadian to lose through unification.

There is Mr. Terence Robertson's objective view of what is behind this program. He set it out. He is a man with years of experience, a man who has a knowledge of Ottawa, a man who is a close acquaintance of the Prime Minister, from whom he has high regard, a man who obviously must have had some conversations with the Minister of National Defence or certainly with his staff because he writes with knowledge of this situation. There he gives us the real reason behind this exercise of the Minister of National Defence.

The idea of the minister is to Canadianize our forces. He says: Dispel tradition; forget the past; forget second Ypres and Vimy Ridge; forget the landing on the Normandy beaches in 1944; forget Dieppe; forget Hong Kong—we are starting afresh. The minister says: Wipe out the Royal Canadian Navy; wipe out the word "Royal" wherever it appears. He says: Canadianize our forces. Yet, as I have said so often, this country has an admirable history, an admirable tradition extending over centuries. All national groups that have lived in this country have made a contribution to that tradition, the sacrifice that has gone into building up this country

and maintaining our independence, the sacrifice that has gone into sustaining that independence and the freedom of the free nations of the world during this century. These things have been based upon the forces which the minister now wishes to change and for which apparently he has little respect.

This minister wants to wipe out most of the things that serving men have ever treasured with regard to the life they have lived. Why wipe out the Royal Canadian Navy or change the uniform of the men in the navy? After all, they are volunteering to sacrifice their lives in case of emergency. Surely they should be permitted, then, to retain those things which they consider to be part of their life. Is not the same true of the Royal Canadian Air Force, those men who volunteer and risk their lives. They die even in peacetime; I do not know how many pilots we have lost during the last 10 or 15 years. These men are ready to die in wartime. Why cannot they retain their title "Royal Canadian Air Force" and their uniform?

The same is true of the army and all our famous regiments. Forty eight Canadian infantry battalions fought at the battle of Vimy Ridge, which we were commemorating a few days ago. The famous 22nd regiment was there. There were 47 other battalions there, all of whom went over the top at Vimy Ridge in two waves, 15,000 in the first wave and 15,000 in the second. Are not those battalions entitled to maintain their traditions? Of course they are.

Sir, I have now placed on the record of this historic document of Canadian *Hansard* the real reason, according to Mr. Terence Robertson, why this unification program of the Minister of National Defence was started and has been carried through. Now we know why the Prime Minister has made this minister go ahead with that program; in fact, it is the Prime Minister's idea and it is with his approval that the Minister of National Defence is carrying on in the way he is.

Progress reported.

**BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**

**Mr. Churchill:** Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether I could ask whoever is leading the house whether we will go on with other government business tomorrow, or are we to provide another opportunity for government members to speak on the subject of unification?