

Supply—National Defence

current year in relation to defence I realize that we are speaking about money that for the most part is already spent. We are looking forward to next year's estimates which we hope will be before the house before too long. At that time we will be dealing with the expenditures for the 1966-67 fiscal year. In view of that I will attempt to keep my remarks as short and to the point as possible.

I do not speak in this debate with any claim of being an authority on defence but I do speak as a citizen who is interested in the value we are getting for \$1½ billion in expenditures of tax money and whether or not we in Canada are fulfilling our role in relation to defence responsibilities. After all, \$1½ billion is a lot of money. If that amount were used in other areas for the development of our own economy or for our war on poverty, it could make a tremendous impact on the nation. I trust that the Minister of National Defence and his department are careful in their consideration and determination of Canada's role in relation to defence and military expenditures.

What are we attempting to do as a nation in this particular area and what is it that we are actually hoping to do? Is our defence policy completely integrated with our external affairs policy? Are these two policies working together in co-ordination toward the same objective and are they in line with our trade policy? Unless they are I believe we stand in constant danger of not fulfilling the objectives of our role and actually wasting money that could be better used in other ways.

I should like to impress upon the minister and his department that attention must be paid to our own responsibilities when determining our objectives. We must accomplish something practical in relation not only to our own responsibilities but the responsibilities of our neighbours in the area of defence.

• (1:50 p.m.)

Canada stands in a very peculiar position in this regard. No other country stands in quite the same position. This is because we occupy the northern part of a continent, and by reason of our tremendous barren areas in the north and our vast coast line it is impossible for us to institute a defence program that would adequately protect the country in the event of attack from outside. Because of our geographical position it is inevitable and reasonable that we integrate our defence pattern with that of the United States as it relates to

this continent. I am speaking strictly in terms of defence.

This does not mean, nor should it mean, that we just have to follow along and dot the "i's" and cross the "t's" of the handwriting that American defence policy may lay out before us. But certainly we should not be so foolish as to think we can on our own maintain any responsible and effective national defence program without it being thoroughly integrated with that of the United States.

In this regard, Mr. Chairman, I think it is reasonable to assume that we could completely discard our whole defence program knowing that the United States would defend our shores more quickly perhaps than they would their own simply because of our geographical position. All this must therefore be part of the outworking of any defence policy that we have.

I think the minister and his department must be commended for what they have done toward the integration of our forces. I travel outside this country occasionally and meet people who are involved in the defence programs of other countries. I think these people look to Canada with a certain amount of envy and respect for carrying into effect what they have fought and talked about for years now. I believe there is no doubt at all that the progress achieved toward the integrating of our forces, particularly as this policy applies to smaller nations, is a pattern that will be copied by many of these countries. Therefore I believe a great deal of credit is due to the minister and those who work with him for bringing about this integration.

I think the minister and his officials have won phase one in the program of the integration of our forces. They have now taken the lead that makes completion of integration inevitable; it is part of an accepted pattern. On the other hand, I am concerned that they do not lose out on phase two, the actual implementation of those policies which have now been accepted and laid out as being the pattern for integration. Phase two of this program should make integration an actual and practical reality.

In my opinion the command organization that has been laid out on paper and the fact that we are now into the period where this is actually being carried out are important to the defence program. I have heard reports from service personnel and have also observed what is happening to their morale. When you see the confusion that exists at the