

External Affairs

Mr. St. Laurent: But not at the meetings.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Oh, no. It is true that they were not at the meetings, but there is such a similarity that it indicates someone in high authority, this anonymous somebody, sir, that invariably flies the kites for the government, did so on this occasion and furnished the information. The first was Mr. Jack Stepler, who stated—it is all in the narrative form—that the Prime Minister appeared before the commonwealth prime ministers' meeting and dealt with the question of defence.

And most impressive was Canada's contribution to northern defence through the three lines of early warning stations, where the \$200 million spent on only the mid-Canada line is comparable to the New Zealand defence budget.

Mr. St. Laurent: I have already denied in the house, Mr. Speaker, the accuracy of that report.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I see. I have three more reports that will have to be denied. Mr. A. O. Tate, of the *Toronto Star*, a newspaper that seems to have an unusual capacity to think as the government is thinking, said this. I take it that this, too, is denied.

The Prime Minister pointed out that the Canadian people spent \$200 million on only one phase of continental defence.

Then there are two others to the same effect. Miss Armstrong of the *Toronto Telegram* added that this person had been astounded by that information. There is nothing so secret about this except on the part of the Canadian government. There is a suggestion that there is something, oh so hush-hush, in what is being done in northern Canada. I have before me the *Victoria Colonist* of February 20 in which are set forth the plans of these defence lines. I am not going to particularize, but it shows where the D.E.W. line will be built, it shows the Alaska line, it shows the mid-Canada line and the "Pinetree" line. It gives particulars and details of each of these constructions and of what contribution is being made by Canada.

Furthermore, United States papers are setting out similar details. Remember the Prime Minister was at the conference. Apparently when he was asked as to what Canada's contribution could be he indicated that she could not go beyond the limits of her wealth. In support of the argument that we were stretched to the limit he told of the tremendous expenditures being made in connection with continental air defence.

Strangely enough in the United States the report is that these great facilities for defence, these eyes of the watchdogs of radar equipped with the bark of radio transmission

to all parts of the United States, are being built by the United States. The *Chicago American* of January 23 sets out in detail what is being done in northern Canada. Do you know what the source of the information was? They say in this house that one should not ask about this because of security reasons. The source of the information in the United States was the secretary of defence who told of the expenditures being made in Canada on continental air defence. He said that the expenditures would be from \$500 million to \$2,000 million in the next few years. He set forth in considerable detail what is being done in connection with these various fences that are being set up and also in connection with the central military agency which is being established to co-ordinate with the federal civil defence organization, the state civil defence agencies and other governmental agencies.

One does not want to pierce the security of this nation, but the Canadian people have the right to know with regard to the H-bomb what stage it has reached today, its destructiveness described so dramatically by the Prime Minister of Great Britain the other day when he tapped his dispatch box and said that the plutonium that could be confined within that box would enable any one nation which alone possessed the power that plutonium gives, to control the hearts, souls, and beings of mankind.

These pictures of the terror of the H-bomb have struck fear into the hearts of the people. They have given a new urgency to the need of the preservation of peace, as the minister said today. But he pointed out also another side that we do not know: Some trigger-happy Chinese communist, flushed with the victorious past of these crusaders for the building of that better world they dream of, might in a moment of weakness pull the trigger that would start the conflagration. It will then be too late for Canadians to know whether or not these lines of radar will give the security they are presumed to give.

There has been a tremendous change in the thinking of the government of Great Britain. The white paper does not disclose the emphasis on manpower in the armed forces. The 48 battalions of the reserve army in Great Britain are to be used, not as a military force but as an ancillary force for civil defence. Up to the present time we have no information as to whether, if the ultimate awfulness of H-bomb warfare comes, what has been done in the way of air defence will meet our expectations that out of this world disaster we will at least be assured the maximum of warning for the people of our nation.