

Mr. McINTOSH: Did you think that the Minister had no responsibility as far as the military is concerned and that the responsibility was all yours as far as the people of Canada were concerned?

Rear Admiral LANDYMORE: No, I did not sir. I traced the whole circumstances which led to this in the brief which I sent to you. I think if you trace the history of my relationship with unification, you will find there was no desire on my part to speak out in public against it until I was certain in my own mind that unless I did it nothing would never be brought to the attention of the public. Moreover, I was expressing not just my own personal point of view but, as I pointed out in the brief, the point of view of a very large number of responsible people.

I do not think the Minister for one second really thought that I was taking civil control or even dictating government policy. I think he was quite certain in his own mind that he had to bring this legislation to parliament before he could act. I think he found that someone like myself, who was opposed to his views, was a nuisance and it was better to eliminate the nuisance and get on with his views.

Mr. McINTOSH: Was there any suggestion, in your discussions with the Minister about your opposition to the program of unification, that there would be a coup of any type by the senior military personnel in the three different forces?

Rear Admiral LANDYMORE: No sir.

Mr. McINTOSH: You cannot remember anything that would suggest to the Minister there was a possibility of this which would cause him to make such a statement?

Rear Admiral LANDYMORE: No. When I saw him after he made that particular statement I did not discuss with him his point of view in relation to what I had done.

Mr. McINTOSH: I will drop that subject for a moment, Admiral. I was very interested in your remarks this morning when you said that steward personnel from the army were now used as stewards with the navy. Was this because you have not sufficient personnel within the navy recruitment program to fill these positions?

Rear Admiral LANDYMORE: Yes, we have a shortage of stewards. I am not too familiar with the figures, but I assume that was the reason.

Mr. McINTOSH: You have a shortage of stewards. Is there any branch in the navy that is not short of personnel?

Rear Admiral LANDYMORE: There were acute shortages in about half of the trades of the navy at the time I left. I could not say what the present situation is. I have no access to day-by-day assessments of strength as I had when I was the Admiral in Halifax.

Mr. McINTOSH: Are you quite in accord with our program of national defence as it was while you were a serving officer, in that the defence of North America now will only be attained by continental defence against ballistic missiles, and so on? Is it possible for Canada to defend her borders herself against aggression?