

Supply—National Defence

to be taken will in fact bring into existence the kind of force that we have been told is being planned.

When I mention specialists for the ground crews, and specialists for the navy, I might include the highly trained personnel required for the armoured forces, the artillery and other army units today. That brings us, then, to one of the subjects mentioned by the Minister of National Defence yesterday. As reported at page 2871 of *Hansard*, the Minister of National Defence said this:

It was suggested that we should make an appraisal of our manpower resources. These appraisals especially made for a special purpose can soon become out of date. The dominion bureau of statistics and the Department of Labour have continuous appraisals, and I have been told that from most points of view the information they have is adequate for statistical planning with regard to manpower in this country.

Mr. Chairman, I can only take it that the minister was speaking as the Minister of National Defence. If he was speaking of manpower as Minister of National Defence, then I say that it is misleading this house, whether unintentionally or otherwise, to convey the impression that the information in possession of the bureau of statistics or the Department of Labour is adequate for the allocation of manpower to the armed forces of this country. There is not an hon. member in this house who has had any occasion whatever to study the problem of allocating manpower in the armed forces, either in small units or in large, who does not know that there must be a most careful inquiry not only into the skill possessed by the individual but also as to the temperament, physical capacity for certain types of jobs, and the general suitability of the individual for the particular kind of work. Frankly, it is just eyewash, and eyewash of a very dangerous kind, to suggest that the Department of Labour and the bureau of statistics have the kind of information that would be required to allocate manpower for these three great branches of the armed services. Once again, Mr. Chairman, I only comment on this for the purpose of indicating something of the manner in which this important subject is being considered, when I refer to the very silly comments that are being made by some hon. members on the other side during the discussion of this very important subject.

Mr. Ferrie: What about yourself? Why don't you take that back? Why don't you tell Russia we have not got anything?

Mr. Drew: Mr. Chairman, I have no intention of informing Russia about the hon. member.

Mr. Ferrie: You have not any intention of telling us anything.

Mr. Drew: If there were anything whatever in the suggestion that these statistics supply the information required, then what was all the hullabaloo about the appointment of the manpower council which we heard only a couple of months ago? Apparently now the Minister of National Defence is going to wait to be told by the advisory committee on manpower whether he should do something about this. Well, the advisory committee on manpower was announced with every effort to create an impression as to its importance. The statements that were made at the time were accepted by the people of Canada as evidence that something definitely was being done to deal with this subject. Just as an example to illustrate how it was accepted in different parts of the country, let me read what was said by the *Halifax Chronicle-Herald* of February 7, three months ago:

The national advisory council on manpower, just announced by the Minister of Labour, will have serious tasks of allocation of such power on its agenda before long. Its work will have to be carefully integrated with that of the ministry of defence.

And so the comments went right across the country. This committee was to be for the purpose of examining manpower, and to make provision for its allocation. That was the impression given, and that was the impression which it was intended the people should have. Now this advisory council on manpower is apparently regarded as something unnecessary, if we are to take the statement of the Minister of National Defence yesterday. If his statement is to be taken literally, then all the information that we require from time to time is available from these other sources. But, Mr. Chairman, the Minister of National Defence said that statistics can very soon become outdated. Statistics will always become outdated if you do not get them in the first place, and that is exactly the situation. They are not going to be outdated if we do not even have them. At the moment, no attempt has been made to provide the basic information on which this government can carry out any part of those plans which have been placed before this house.

We received what was called a white paper just before the minister made his statement. It was called a white paper, but it has very properly been said in responsible references to it that it could be called a green paper, a yellow paper or a red paper or anything else, and it would mean the same thing. It is nothing but a collection of statements made publicly from time to time before they