

Supply—National Defence

troops will put aside the nuclear warheads within NATO framework.

To a question I raised during the session I was told—the replies are always vague—we do not know where we are going—in brief: The warheads will be recalled as the planes are taken out of service. Truisms, Mr. Chairman. What is the Canadian policy, the national defence department policy on this difficult, important and national issue of nuclear weapons? I do not know. Other members of different parties do not know. Canadian taxpayers, who pay for them do not know. This is why I often repeat it and say to the minister—the people, undecided about many areas of federal affairs, have elected three minority governments in the last three elections.

There seems to be a lack of firmness in the administration of the Department of National Defence. This point must be stressed because a lot is expected from the minister in whom we have confidence, for he seems to be a most sympathetic fellow.

The third principle which should guide our Canadian policy is that, as far as our military expenditures are concerned, extravagance and costly ventures should be avoided. In both cases, the minister could show much more firmness and caution.

● (4:30 p.m.)

The recent report of the Auditor General contained some unpleasant and disquieting surprises for all Canadian taxpayers.

For the fiscal year 1964-65, this report showed unauthorized expenses totalling about \$23 million in the Department of National Defence. There is particular emphasis on unproductive expenses on a bombing computer and the Bobcat armoured carrier. But now someone with an objective and searching mind—I refer to the public accounts auditor—shows to the Canadian population that \$23 million has been wasted.

Mr. Chairman, do you know what that means for the taxpayer, for the father who has an annual income of \$2,500, \$3,000, \$3,500, for the unemployed, for the Quebec farmer whose income does not even reach \$3,000 per year and who has a large family when they find that their country's government has wasted \$23 million? That is why I suggest that the minister should establish in his department an organization for the control of expenditures and experiments.

[Mr. Allard.]

I know too well that the minister, with his heavy responsibilities, cannot see to everything, from coast to coast, 365 days a year. But it seems that there has been a lack of control for a very long time.

I remember that about 20 years ago, horses were put on the military pay list at Petawawa. There is nothing new in this way of wasting the taxpayers' money. Therefore, because of this waste, the minister should personally set up a control agency within his own department.

And the fourth principle is that the Departments of National Defence and External Affairs should work to build a sovereign, more independent Canada. They should try to give Canada a definite identity, avoid putting our country at the service of foreign countries, thus furthering their military purposes and economic ambitions.

What are the enemies of Canada, Mr. Chairman? Tell me. Personally, I do not know any. If we minded our own business more often, would we have enemies?

There we are with the United States, with England, in other countries.

Economic interests are often a source of conflict. Will Canada get involved in such things? If we minded our own business more, it would help Canada's identity and sovereignty. Moreover, it would enable us to keep more money for our people.

The fifth and last principle I want to mention is that the activities and extension of our national defence should not hinder the great role of mediator and peace maker that Canada is called upon to play in the world.

Thus a budget of \$1,559,300,193 is excessive considering Canada's means and role. In the future, the government should consider a 40 per cent reduction of military expenditure and use these savings to fight poverty. That is the battle we should really be fighting, for indignation and rebellion will vanish along with poverty.

I wish to draw the attention of the Minister of National Defence to a certain matter in the county of Sherbrooke. In 1964, the minister closed the Sherbrooke university division of naval instruction which I had managed to establish in 1960. I must tell the minister that this was a great disappointment for the people of the county of Sherbrooke, the eastern townships and the province of Quebec.

The minister should consider re-establishing this training unit at the university for a