

gram. It would be very timely in facing our unemployment crisis. The basic concept of our militia should be that we can produce efficiency and a proud and dedicated back-up for our regular forces in the case of need and in aid to the civil power. It could form the nucleus in leadership in solid and productive programs for the youth of our country.

We must continue to support what is probably the best program ever sponsored by the Department of National Defence, the cadet services of Canada. It is unfortunate that we have not kept a record of the results of this training in connection with our school systems and under sponsorship of service organizations. If this had been done we could have seen the results of such programs in producing better citizens. I hope the government will continue to support such a program across our nation and, more important, to allow more participation in it.

I give full marks to the minister for providing a more wide-ranging program in the area of special militia training and providing civilian employment for students and others up to the age of 24 years. The broadening of this program to include research and engineering products, food services and physical education programs deserves merit. I am in favour of the program of six weeks' instruction at mobile command bases across Canada in first-aid, hunter safety, bush survival search and rescue, water safety, citizenship, adventure training, leadership and instructional techniques. However, such courses should be provided on a much larger scale because never have we needed more to provide our youth with a sense of purpose, especially in the fields of physical fitness and leadership training.

In our apparent desire to involve our youth and to invite them to confront our government leaders in a sense of participation, we should use basic common sense and allow them to participate in a meaningful way with the proper leadership training which they can pass on to others and at the same time earn enough to complete their education. On the one hand the minister tells us that the numbers must be restricted because of lack of funds; on the other hand the government is prepared to pay students to hitchhike across the country because we want them to see Canada. We have come up with a pretty good Canada as it is, Mr. Speaker, and I wonder what Member of Parliament would have thought, as a youth, that he deserved a government-sponsored tour to make a better country.

• (4:10 p.m.)

We became a better country by hard work and pride in being independent, by suffering through world wars. No one wants to hear the word "war" any longer. So let us put the expertise in military training to a more useful goal as part of their future role—to provide leadership and training to others by healthy and useful participation and direct the energies of our youth to make a useful contribution, and not by inviting them to become militant against those who govern.

Let our youth prepare themselves to provide better government in the future by an over-all plan of instilling

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a sense of responsibility to show how much we need their energies to make a better Canada. We can show them Canada on television in their leisure hours, but they will become better Canadians if they expend some effort through their healthy minds and bodies.

The motion before us today is timely in that it urges the government to declare a defence policy which will indicate that we can and will define a clear and purposeful role for our armed forces, and I hope we will see proof of that in the near future.

Mr. R. J. Orange (Northwest Territories): Mr. Speaker, I will leave to the experts of the defence committee the question whether we should be moving our armed forces into or out of Europe. I intend to direct my remarks today to what I believe to be the role of the armed forces in the Canadian north.

Historically, the first appearance of the Canadian armed forces in the Canadian north was back in the Klondyke days, the days of the Yukon gold rush. In 1898, a regular force officer, Colonel Evans, led the Yukon field force into the Yukon to work with the Northwest Mounted Police to maintain order and discipline in that unruly era. The field force remained in the Yukon for many years before moving on.

During the course of the years the communications system of the Yukon and the Mackenzie was manned by the northwest signal system of the signal corps. When it became apparent that the private sector was able to take over communications in the territories, the signal corps left. After the Second World War, when the United States army moved out of the Yukon, responsibility for maintaining the Alaska highway, the northwest highway system, was left with the military.

With the growth of civilian services in the area this arrangement, too, passed from the scene and for a number of years the presence of the military in the Canadian north was limited to a number of installations, primarily communications stations at Frobisher Bay, Alert and Inuvik. Exercises were occasionally held in the north to measure the effectiveness of equipment, supplies and communications.

Last year, however, on May 15, the then Minister of National Defence announced the establishment of a northern region command. When Mr. Cadieux made his announcement he indicated that one of the purposes of establishing a northern headquarters was to strengthen Canada's military presence north of the sixtieth parallel. A small aircraft-servicing detachment was established at Frobisher and increased air surveillance coverage was provided.

Together with some of my hon. friends in the House I had the opportunity of joining the committee on national defence and the minister last week in Yellowknife to celebrate Northern Command's first year and to dedicate Colonel Evans' headquarters' building in Yellowknife. In the past year we have seen the development of a reasonably effective plan for the presence of the armed forces north of the sixtieth parallel. Reasonably enough, the size of the permanent force at this stage is limited. They are