

VERNMENT



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# STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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CANADA'S PREPAREDNESS PROGRAMME

An address by the Deputy Minister of Defence Production, Mr. R.M. Brophy, at the Annual Meeting of the Canadian Industrial Preparedness Association, at Quebec, October 16, 1952.

... In one of your recent reports, attention was drawn to the fact that the Government's three-year defence programme is scheduled to wind up in 1954. A very natural question of course follows: "Where do we go from here?" This question can be separated into two parts. The first has to do with what happens to industry when the present preparedness programme has reached its objective. The second is, what are the Government's long-term plans to maintain our defence potential and what are the plans to deal with an emergency requiring full mobilization of all our resources.

I am not going to attempt to deal with this second phase, as it is primarily a matter which is outside my terms of reference. I would, however, like to bring to your attention some recent remarks by Henry H. Fowler, Director of Defense Mobilization in the United States. When he appeared before the Congressional Joint Committee on Defense Production, he pointed out that any programme for insuring industrial readiness, for full mobilization must be highly selective, and he went on to say that any attempt to insure capacity for every known type of military equipment would prove an impossible task under present circumstances. While Mr. Fowler went on to recognize the importance of an adequate mobilization base, I am inclined to agree with him when he says that this "is the great dilemma of our times".

I know that on this particular question many of you are thinking back to the early part of the last War, when it took us from 18 months to 2 years to get into production because the specifications and drawings and technical know-how were to a large extent in the hands of the British and the Americans. This, however, is not the case today. As a result of our experience in the last War, together with the progress that is being made in the present programme, Canada is now in a much better position in terms of industrial readiness. We are getting experience in producing the type of military equipment that is being used today, and we are building up the facilities that can be quickly expanded to meet mobilization requirements.

I have said that the long-term planning phase was outside my terms of reference. On the other hand, the current programme is very definitely my business. It is now well over a year since the Canadian Government announced its three-year 5 billion dollar defence programme. We are all agreed, I know, that these figures, both as to time and value, were targets based on a rough estimate of the job to be done. In the past year and a half, the programme has taken shape and as a result of various developments, we now have a clearer picture