

*North Atlantic Treaty*

house should bear in mind because when we talk of the effectiveness of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization we must not forget that its effectiveness to preserve peace will depend upon what we have in reality and not on what we simply have on order.

I would point out that in the statement tabled with the committee on defence expenditures on December 13 by the deputy minister of defence production we found, for instance, that in the case of small arms there is as yet no service rifle on order in any Canadian factory or government arsenal. May I repeat that. There is as yet no Canadian rifle on order, let alone in production, in any Canadian arsenal or factory. When I speak of a service rifle I am not, of course, speaking of the .22 calibre rifle or of the other rifles that are used for special purposes. I have before me the list, and it shows that the only rifles on order in Canada with any Canadian arsenal or factory are 1,176 .22 calibre rifles—which are only practice or target rifles or for use of that kind—and 4,440 survival weapons of .22 calibre which are for the use of aircrew or other military detachments who might find it necessary to live on the country if they were separated from their ordinary sources of supply.

May I point out that there are no rifles on firm order from anyone else. I am talking now about service rifles with the meaning applied to that term that is understood by the Department of National Defence. A tentative order was placed with the United States government for 20,951 .30 calibre rifles, but that order has been suspended. In other words, at this stage of this great

crisis the Canadian government has not only no firm order for rifles for our infantry or other armed services—that is, of the hard-hitting service pattern—but it has no orders placed in our own country for the manufacture of those rifles. In fact there is good reason to believe that the Canadian government has not yet made up its mind as to which calibre of rifle it is going to make.

That, I suggest, is a situation which should cause grave concern to every Canadian at a time when we are expecting the huge expenditures that we are approving to produce positive and real results in the form of armed and trained men ready to take their part in the defence of freedom. I can only repeat that it is the actual military strength we show that offers the one real hope of peace.

Then may I also point out that while orders have been placed with Canadian Arsenals Limited for Browning .5 machine guns, although these defence preparations have been under way for so long, and although the value of the commitments for those is \$14,601,228, all that has been spent up to this month is \$26,620. The very insignificance of that figure shows how little progress has been made in equipping our defence forces with machine guns of this type.

Then when we come to artillery weapons, which are the other major weapons of the land forces, I find in the same report, tabled on December 13, the only artillery weapons for which orders have been placed in Canada, either with any Canadian arsenal or with any private industry, are the following:

Supplier	Item	Estimated Value	Expenditure
Sorel Industries Ltd. ....	138 105mm. howitzers	\$1,500,000	nil
Sorel Industries Ltd. ....	29 155mm. howitzers	650,000	nil
Sorel Industries Ltd. ....	180 155mm. howitzers	3,960,000	nil

I would not wish to pass through these statements without saying that certain artillery weapons have been ordered from the United States government in comparatively small amounts. For instance, I find that in the case of 59 4.2" mortars, ordered from the United States government at an estimated cost of \$141,070, there is no indication of the amount spent; although I understand that in this case there may have been some expenditure because it was under a blanket payment to the United States government. It may well be that all those guns have actually been acquired.

[Mr. Drew.]

I would remind the members of this house, Mr. Speaker, that we have constantly heard Canada described, in this house and elsewhere, as one of the great arsenals of democracy. If we are not preparing to be the arsenal for our own defence forces, we are not preparing very effectively to be the arsenal for the defence forces of other countries. As we accept these responsibilities, with the clear evidence that the people of Canada support the members of this house in the acceptance of these responsibilities, with our industrial skill, with the capacity that was demonstrated by the