

Supply—National Defence

from raising pay scales and giving bonuses, this would be well worth while. A great deal can be done in this regard by an assurance from and somewhat more concrete acts, by this minister.

The Deputy Chairman: Shall that item carry?

Mr. Clancy: Mr. Chairman, my form of address tonight is more in the way of questions than expounding policy for our services.

I have always been curious why the R.C.A.F. took on a tactical role. I think if you read your service journals and your staff college journals you will find that that is murder, unless you have the manpower and machines to follow it up—unless we are going to start the war, and I do not think we are.

Let no one tell me that if any enemy is going to start a war he will not know how many machines there are, where all the men are on leave, and so on. If we are going to spend money, then let us spend our money on things we can do best.

As far as aircraft are concerned, I could not express an honest opinion, because first of all it was decided that they were to have weapons with nuclear warheads. Then that policy was modified, and modified, and we have not been apprised.

I want to bring up another point. Day after day on radio and television we are hearing about trained skilled men, and that we need these skilled men. That is right. I have been to some apprenticeship classes. I see no reason why we do not take these boys into the forces, give them training, and let them go out to industry. They are always in the reserve if we need them. We can always call them back, and they will be better technicians. Here we are running expensive and beautifully equipped establishments, and we are not making use of them. To me that is rather silly.

If you take a boy with a grade 10 education, keep him in the forces for two or three years, and on his release allow him to go to industry, he is still of value to the armed forces because he will be in the armed forces reserve. Moreover, that boy will become a better man for his training, because nothing is worse than making work. A skilled man hates to sit around to make a job for himself.

I suggest that we look into this, and perhaps this department and other departments can get together. That way we shall train skilled men. The country has the training facilities, and could build up a reserve.

That is all I have to say, Mr. Chairman.

● (8:20 p.m.)

Mr. Webb: Mr. Chairman, the remarks I have tonight will be very brief. Many of the subjects, including procurement of defence vehicles, have been mentioned by many members this evening. I wish to enter this debate because I have had some personal contact with members of the armed forces. My first remarks must be directed to the minister who, outside the House of Commons, is a very amiable person—but inside the House of Commons and in his department he has become almost a dictator. I would say to him that he reminds one of a young boy who is trying to impress the Canadian people, with the help of the press, that he has grown up.

In this debate the minister is trying to convince the Canadian people that everything he is doing is for their welfare. I say, Mr. Chairman, that this is not true. It is a camouflage, it is a myth. The minister has only one thing in his mind, and that is to become leader of the Liberal party.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Webb: I am very happy to know that he has three people backing him up on the other side. This is the minister's program. He has no thought for the armed services. He has no thought for the standard of our defence policy.

In the past I am sure all Canadians have been very proud of our defence policy, a policy designed by such people as Mr. Pearkes and my hon. friend from Winnipeg South Centre. This was the policy which, I am sure, all Canadians wanted to see—one which they thought of as being a true Canadian policy.

I should like to say a word or two, now, about the mood of the services today. In the past perhaps many governments have shown a lack of enthusiasm about defence problems. This reflects the feelings of a nation which has a natural distaste for war. However, the fact that we have been living on the edge of war must be faced. We have obligations to our allies. To allocate vast sums of money to defence is not enough; the money must be well spent.

The most important thing is that there should be a high state of morale in our armed services. The services must have confidence in the ultimate authority, that is, the government. If loyalty is to be expected from the services, this essential attribute must be