

*Supply—National Defence*

I would not want my references to forces in being to suggest there is not an important and valuable role for the reserve forces to play. Hon. members of this committee are well aware of the value attached to service in the reserve forces—in the naval reserve, the army militia and the air force auxiliary.

It is an inspiring evidence of good citizenship that 55,000 Canadians keep abreast of military affairs by membership in the reserve forces of the three services and a quarter of a million more serve in the ground observer corps, in civil defence or as cadets.

All of these perform a significant part in providing security for Canada. All can begin to make their contribution felt within a few hours or days should war break out—a contribution that, because of their training and experience, can increase rapidly in the time following the first impact of war.

I might refer first to the militia and to the fresh start it has made since the reorganization of two years ago. Last year I said it was too early to weigh the success of the "new look" in the militia. At the present time it is abundantly evident that the militia, under its new dispensation, is operating at new levels of efficiency and of interest.

Best evidence of this is seen in the figures of attendance at summer camp. In 1954 the camp attendance of officers and men was 16,593. Last year it was 20,568—a record high. This year it is anticipated that almost 23,000 will participate—another record high.

The militia today is better trained and better equipped than ever before in the history of Canada. The armoured units now have Sherman tanks but these in due course will be replaced by a sufficient number of tanks of later design to support their training requirements. In the artillery, the 25-pounders are being replaced with 105-mm howitzers, as used by the regular force. Similarly, it is intended to replace the weapons and equipment of the other corps of the militia with the latest types as they become available but, of course, the equipping of the regular army must take priority.

I should like to reiterate that the militia is an important part of our defence organization and deserves the wholehearted support of every citizen. Now, in addition to training in their customary roles, the militia has been given the responsibility for training in civil defence work and a close liaison is being built up between regular army, militia and local civil defence authorities.

With regard to the other services, this summer the naval reserve also has a full training program, in which the emphasis will be on training aboard ships of the regular force

[Mr. Campney.]

on the east and west coasts or smaller craft on lake Ontario operated from the headquarters of the Royal Canadian Navy (Reserve) at Hamilton, Ontario. I have already spoken about the Royal Canadian Air Force Auxiliary, which will go on with its usual training programs, except for those squadrons that will begin their change-over to new and challenging roles.

In the difficult time since world war II, it has not been easy for the free nations to keep their freedoms intact. It has not been by chance, certainly, that this has been achieved. It has, indeed, been only because of the resolute determination of the free peoples working together toward a common end. As a partner in two great organizations looking to the maintenance of peace, the United Nations and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Canada has given abundant proof of her sincere desire to avoid war and of her active concern for the correction of conditions which might lead to war.

Despite its failure to measure up to the first high ideals it set itself, the United Nations has still helped to prevent and, at the least, to limit war. There is the historic example of Korea, where, incidentally, a small group of Canadians still serve on, the rear guard of that valiant force that fought, successfully, in the Korean war. Canadian officers also, under United Nations auspices, are today serving the cause of peace in Indo-China, in Kashmir and in Israel.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization is founded on the truth that in union there is strength. In Canada we subscribe to that truth. In stationing Canadian servicemen in France and Germany, in training aircrew from nine NATO countries here in Canada, and in welcoming United States troops to stand beside our own in defence of our common continental home, we give evidence of our conviction that, in the NATO family, a "stay at home" policy and a "visiting forces not wanted" policy have no place and, indeed, if given effect to, could endanger us all.

The great defensive system that we have built in NATO with so much labour must not be allowed to fall into disrepair. Honest assessment of the world situation tells us that we cannot safely rest on what we have done. We must go on working together for the common good with undiminished zeal and equal determination.

Despite our considerable defence expenditures, and despite our best defence endeavours, there can be, for Canadians, no such thing as absolute safety. That must be sought, not by standing alone in our defence preparations, but in the collective strength and evident capacity of the free nations to