

*Supply—National Defence*

work but there are none in these centres which are key centres of the dominion-wide transportation system?

The minister may recall that when Japan entered the last war there was a tremendous amount of sabotage, and immediately the transcontinental systems were guarded over their whole length for a limited time until the worry about sabotage was over. My point is that these national transportation systems are of key importance. One well placed bomb at Nipigon would tie up our road and rail facilities right across the country. The same thing applies to a number of places in the Canadian shield. This is an aspect of the emergency organization, and we need people at these points of responsibility. It seems to me it is obvious, it is key, it is short range, it is immediate, that you need these people. Pleased as we may be to have a nucleus in Port Arthur and Fort William, the real need in an emergency sense to knit the country together is out in these places.

We have had no indication from the minister that this goal is in the minds of the people who are planning this course. I may tell him that I know it is not, as a result of talking to the officers who were conducting the course. I repeat that I feel it was an excellent course. They have no indication that they are getting a wide response from the district. They certainly could not confirm for me that the Canadian Pacific Railway or the Canadian National or Trans-Canada Air Lines were seizing the opportunity to get their personnel trained in these courses. I am not expecting an answer from the minister. I just wanted to sort of underline the weakness which seemed apparent to me in the scheme.

The last point upon which I should like to touch, Mr. Chairman, relates to our military forces in Europe. I should like to ask the minister what armoured carrier these forces have at the present time, or what armoured carrier is in the process of preparation for them. I am wondering particularly whether or not any of the British Saracen vehicles are being provided or are in use by our troops in Europe.

**Mr. Harkness:** In so far as the hon. member's point of view is concerned, I would agree with what seems to be the basis of the hon. member's contention. If everyone in Canada were trained in survival measures and emergency measures techniques generally, that would be the ideal situation. However, you cannot accomplish that purpose overnight. We made a start on it by attempting to train 100,000 people. Before starting to pick out some people from every town in the

country and train them, I think the practical thing was to go ahead and train some people where the facilities for training existed.

In the second place, the hon. member talked about possible tie-ups of transportation and so forth. I feel the hon. member is confusing two completely different matters. There exists under the general emergency measures organization a transportation emergency set-up in which employees of the two railways as well as the trucking people have a part to play. Plans have been drawn up in order to ensure that transportation can be maintained in the country, and that where breaks occur they will be repaired quickly. In other words, that is a phase which does not come under my department at all. It is part of the general emergency measures organization activities.

Then the hon. member asked about the type of armoured carriers being used in Europe. At the present time we have some armoured cars for use of the brigade in Europe. The intention is, of course, to provide the brigade in Europe with the Bobcat, the new armoured personnel carrier, as soon as we get delivery of this vehicle.

**Mr. Fisher:** I have a question on the order paper for the Minister of Defence Production in relation to this vehicle. But having said this much, I wonder if the minister could indicate whether consideration was given to the Saracen which is, I understand, a British vehicle that parallels the Bobcat and which, I gather from British sources, is immensely successful. If not, was any attempt made to see whether or not the Bobcat could be provided for more forces in NATO than merely the Canadian?

**Mr. Harkness:** I am not familiar with the Saracen, but this I do know. There is nothing in the British army at the present time comparable to the Bobcat. The British are not as far along in the development of an armoured personnel carrier which will be somewhat comparable to the Bobcat as we are. They have had such a vehicle under development longer than we have. This is an amphibious tracked vehicle capable of going over terrain of every kind. There are, in several of the armies of Europe, armoured personnel carriers which are wheeled vehicles, but they possess the disadvantages of all wheeled vehicles in that they are road bound and of course they have no water barrier capabilities.

**Mr. Fisher:** On previous occasions, Mr. Chairman, the minister has indicated that these vehicles would be coming into use in the Canadian army. May I ask him, in relation to the general estimates of expenditure for the coming year, will any of the moneys

[Mr. Fisher.]