

*National Defence*

the various branches of the service in addition; nevertheless I feel very strongly that this is one particular in which our effort is not sufficient. This is one department in which this young, virile and ingenuous country should press forward with the greatest energy in all lines of research and technical development, and also in the production of munitions and the technique of producing arms of all sorts. It is true that, owing to the secrecy of these operations, members of this house may not be well informed as to what actually is being done by the defence research board. I doubt, however, if this great secrecy is completely justified. After all, if we could keep our potential enemies as misinformed or as uninformed on our activities along that line as is the average man in the street or as are even the members of the opposition, it would possibly be justified; but it should be remembered that our potential enemies have methods that neither the average man in the street nor the members of the opposition would stoop to in order to gain information, even if they had the facilities for gaining it in that way.

I feel strongly, Mr. Speaker, that the key to our survival lies in our ability to be superior to our potential enemy in a technical and scientific way. Here is one place where we should not underestimate the Russian people. We should realize that they are skilful technicians, that they have almost limitless natural resources, and that they have working for them some of the greatest scientists of Germany and of eastern Europe. As far as Canadians are concerned, the present government is—for the present at least—the guardian, the trustee and the defender of our civilization. The survival of our civilization has never before been threatened as it is now. Those who wish to destroy us know nothing of the principle of "live and let live". They sincerely believe that, if they are to survive, they can do so only by exterminating us. They also believe the converse. They believe that if our civilization is to survive, it will do so only by exterminating them.

I shudder when I see people looking on this cold war as a sort of academic game of chess or something of that sort. It is nothing of that kind. It may be a cold war, but nevertheless it is a life and death struggle for the survival of our civilization. The sooner we realize that fact, the better are our chances of survival. Let the government squarely face up to the problems before them, and let them take the Canadian people into their confidence so that we shall know what our obligations are and what is expected of us, and so that we can unite our energy and our ingenuity in solving the problems

which face us in order that world war III can be prevented. Let us make it known to the whole world that we are superior to any potential enemy, and that any attack against us is doomed to failure. Let the dark days never come, Mr. Speaker, when Canadians will say, from the forced labour camps of Siberia, that our effort in defence was too little, too late or in the wrong direction.

**Mr. A. J. Brooks (Royal):** Mr. Speaker, I first want to congratulate the hon. member for Queens (Mr. MacLean), who has just taken his seat, on his excellent speech. It was an exceedingly instructive one. As a matter of fact I think we can truthfully say that this has been a good debate and a necessary one. We call what we are doing preparation for defence, not preparation for war. I think that we in Canada should feel proud that Canada has never prepared for aggressive war but that, in any wars in which we have been engaged, our preparation has always been for peace, for our own protection or for the protection of civilization.

A tremendous burden has been placed upon the people of Canada and on the civilized nations of the world. It is only by a great show of strength, I believe, that we can prevent war. I also believe that it is only by the unity of the democratic peoples of this world that war can be prevented. As I say, this preparation for defence has placed a tremendous burden on the Canadian taxpayers. It is also a tremendous burden on the taxpayers in all other countries who are joined in the same effort in which Canada is participating.

This afternoon our leader spoke about the \$2,100 million that we have voted for defence. In analysing that figure, he pointed out that it represents \$150 for each man, woman and child in this dominion. That gives us some idea of the extent of the burden which our people are bearing and which, I believe, they are prepared to bear as long as they know that the money that is being spent for defence is being spent in the proper way. I can compare this vote of \$2,100 million with the vote of some ten or twelve years ago. I can remember that, in the late thirties, when \$35 million was the amount which this parliament was asked to vote for defence, there was a long debate. As a matter of fact, from many quarters in this house there was opposition to voting even that small amount at that time for our defence, or our defence preparations. I think the potential danger then was almost as great as it is now; but the people of Canada and the members of parliament did not see it at that time. I think the situation is different today. I think that all members of parliament realize