

*Supply*

In light of the fact that we have passed much of our defence on to the shoulders of the Americans, I very strongly feel that we should at least have the decency to assist them with our defence where possible. I want to commend the Minister of National Defence and the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. MacGuigan) for their favourable position on this issue. I say to them that I hope the agreement for testing will be approved.

The other two points in the motion which call for a worldwide nuclear freeze and a worldwide pledge against the first use of nuclear weapons are commendable concepts. However, as I outlined previously, they have questionable application. If any one of us had a magic wand and could wave it with certain assured results, we would instantly cause to disappear all weapons, nuclear and otherwise. At this point I must underscore the fact that I do not belittle any expression of the desire for peace. I, too, wish with all my heart that the words "conflict" and "conquest" would become an archaic part of our language, the use and meaning of which were forgotten in the mists of time. I do believe that everyone throughout the world must continue to speak out on behalf of peace in the hope that one day it will become reality.

Therefore, I understand and applaud the motives of those who make their voices heard. Throughout the country, in many municipalities, a referendum will be held on the issue of nuclear disarmament. It should come as no surprise to anyone when the results of those votes are an overwhelming support for the disarmament position. In my view, the votes which will be recorded in the referenda at the time of municipal elections will, in all probability, show the support of more than 98 per cent. Canadians will naturally raise their voices throughout the world in a call for peace, but the voice of the people must come from the mind of reason. We must reasonably assume that the path to world peace contains many difficult obstacles, although they are not insurmountable. However, they are ones which require that we be ready for the challenge. These obstacles will be vividly presented in New York in June when Canada joins with the other members of the United Nations for the second special session on disarmament.

In its majority report, our committee presented 32 detailed recommendations for the Canadian policy on arms control and disarmament as guides for the upcoming UN meeting. Among the recommendations, all worthy of consideration and support, are a few I would like to highlight. While suggesting that Canada encourage the superpowers to resume talks—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier):** I regret to interrupt the hon. gentleman, but his allotted time has expired, unless he can obtain unanimous consent.

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier):** It is agreed.

**Mr. Darling:** While suggesting that Canada encourage the superpowers to resume talks and reach early agreement both on strategic arms limitation and mutual balanced force reductions, we also recommend that the UN devote special

attention to ways of encouraging peaceful relations between the two. We suggest this could be achieved through the use of confidence-building measures and confidence-restoring techniques, such as good offices, mediation, arbitration and peace-keeping. It was also our recommendation that Canada should support in principle, where appropriate, nuclear weapon free zones and support in principle the concept of zones of peace. We also felt it imperative that Canada take a strong stand on the need to establish a comprehensive prohibition of chemical weapons. It was our view that one of the most critical and crucial fields for arms control and disarmament is nuclear non-proliferation. We suggest that the Canadian delegation do everything possible to highlight its importance for the future of world peace.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier):** Order, please.

**Mr. Darling:** May I call it six o'clock, Mr. Speaker?

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier):** Order, please. It being six o'clock, I do now leave the chair until eight o'clock p.m.

At six o'clock the House took recess.

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**AFTER RECESS**

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier):** When the House rose at six o'clock, the hon. member for Parry Sound-Muskoka (Mr. Darling) had the floor.

**Mr. Darling:** Mr. Speaker, I thank the members of the House for allowing me to finish my remarks.

It was our view that one of the most crucial fields for arms control and disarmament is nuclear non-proliferation and we suggested the Canadian delegation do everything possible to highlight its importance for the future of world peace.

Canadian participation in these meetings on disarmament is that of a concerned partner, one willing to help resolve the grave and serious problem. We in Canada have been fortunate in that our nation has been spared as a theatre of battle in the two major world wars. This may not be the case in the future.

During past wars, many thousands of Canadians fought and died in defence of freedom. The freedom we now enjoy and the future we anticipate exists only because we cared enough to keep them secure. It is not unreasonable to hope we will never again be called upon to fight in defence of what we hold dear, but it would be folly not to be prepared to do so if need be, and if we can help build a sense of mutual confidence and co-operation between the nations of the world, the need may never arise.

[*Translation*]

**Hon. J. Gilles Lamontagne (Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, to follow up on some of the comments made by the hon. member for Parry Sound-Muskoka (Mr. Darling) who spoke before me, I would like to say that the disadvantage