

Supply—National Defence

them take it out themselves. We have something else to do. I have suggested to the minister that we have a job to do in other underdeveloped countries. The only way we can maintain peace is to try to work for peace. The only way you will ever keep a man out of a boxing ring is by not training him to box. If you keep on training him to be a boxer he will end up getting into the ring.

● (1:40 p.m.)

Let us have conventional arms and armed forces with great mobility and efficiency to be used to help in case of floods, conflagrations and other kinds of emergencies. In addition, let us do what we can to help underdeveloped countries instead of waiting for two or three years until a crisis occurs and then helping to defend them. Who will help to defend them in that event? It will be the Canadian youngsters of today. The minister said in his statement last night that the officers of world war II are now leaving the armed forces because they have put in their service and completed their jobs. We have to replace them and who is going to replace them? I say again that these people will be replaced by the young men of Canada. At this time many youngsters join the armed forces of their own choice. Let them be trained as professionals because that is their wish.

I think it is also our job at this time to help the underdeveloped countries that need food, clothing, medicine and doctors. Surely we are able to give them these things and surely we should give them these things to the best of our means. Countries like France are not able to contribute nearly as much because they have to buy a great deal of their foodstuffs elsewhere. By following this course I think we would be taking a great step toward maintaining peace in the world. This would certainly be a more beneficial policy than the policy we are now following of buying Voodoos, Bomarc and the like in an effort to compete with other nations of the world in the arms race now taking place. We cannot compete with other countries so far as nuclear arms are concerned. We have not got the means. We do have the means, perhaps more than any other nation, to help the underdeveloped countries which are sliding toward the communist bloc. That is how communism gains ground in these countries. The people are hungry, they have empty stomachs and they suffer great misery. The communists move in and feed them and then we have to go in to defend them. Let us get out of our lethargic state, our dormant state.

[Mr. Langlois (Mégantic).]

Let us shake the sand out of our eyes and assist these countries in a proper manner.

I am glad that the government has finally decided after 25 years to declare war on poverty in Canada. Let us now take the same attitude and declare war on poverty in other countries which need such a program even more than we do. I think we would make better friends and better alliances if we would assist these countries which do not know where to turn for assistance. Surely we could make better friends in this way than by trying to defend them with our peashooters when a conflict occurs. That is about all we can do when the situation has reached that stage.

I am sure that if the government and the minister took the kind of stand I suggest they would have the support of every citizen in Canada. If they continue the policies started two or three years ago they will not obtain the support of a great many people of this nation, and they can be sure of that.

I want to refer to the policies followed by the government regarding changes in equipment. They come here and ask for large sums of money for, as they say, minor changes in existing equipment. I have found out that many of these so-called changes costing millions of dollars have in effect been replacements by new kinds of equipment rather than modifications of existing equipment. As an example, they will purchase a completely new type of aircraft use the same letters for it as were used on the old type with the addition of perhaps one extra letter. They have done this to camouflage the use of these large sums of money. I do not like that type of policy because it is dishonest. If they intend to purchase new equipment, why do they not say so rather than say they are making modifications? I think the minister and the government should take this suggestion into consideration. I hope in future he will come into the house and say that they have purchased new equipment instead of saying they need money for changes.

In concluding, Mr. Chairman, I should like to urge the minister and his colleagues again to move quickly to help the underdeveloped countries in the world to the greatest extent our means will allow before we are called upon to defend them, as has been the case in the past. I think that by the policy I have suggested we can maintain to a greater extent the peace of the world.

Mr. Thompson: Mr. Chairman, in speaking during this debate on the estimates for the