

*Supply—National Defence*

minister what progress has been made in the provision of equipment in the last year or so. All he had to say in his statement yesterday was that the requirement had been established, but I gather from his own statement that very little progress has been made in the provision of the equipment in question.

Then he also said:

Army headquarters have prepared and issued training directives and provisional training instructions in all aspects of national survival training.

It is my recollection that this was done some time ago, even before the present government took office. So, while this statement is perhaps encouraging in that it does show there have been some changes made in regard to civil defence, I do not think it represents the kind of progress which should result in the warm congratulations the minister has received from that side of the house.

**Mr. Lambert:** It is progress in thinking, surely.

**Mr. Pearson:** We will see what is involved in this thinking when we have a discussion on this matter. I am suggesting one of the things which might not be progress; that we have now three ministers in the government directly concerned with civil defence and that the relationship between those three may constitute a difficulty, that is between the Prime Minister, the Minister of National Health and Welfare and the Minister of National Defence. It may also constitute a difficulty in the relationship between the federal government and municipal and provincial authorities who are certainly directly concerned with this problem. However, as I have said, Mr. Chairman, we will have a more far-reaching debate on this matter when we consider the estimates of the other department.

There is one other question I want to ask the minister, and it concerns the report of the committee on estimates last year on the Department of National Defence. This report, which I thought I had before me, received a good deal of praise because it made recommendations in regard to the Department of National Defence. Yesterday the minister mentioned that one of these recommendations had been implemented in the form in which the department's budget was being presented to parliament this year. I would point out now that there were a great many other recommendations, and I should like him to inform the committee, if he will, to what extent those other recommendations have been carried out or to what extent it is proposed to carry them out in the department.

At one o'clock the committee took recess.  
[Mr. Pearson.]

**AFTER RECESS**

The committee resumed at 2.30 p.m.

**Mr. Pearkes:** Mr. Chairman, this might be an opportune time to answer some of the numerous questions which were posed to me during this morning's debate. Various members referred to civil defence, and I should like to thank those who have spoken on this subject. I do not think I need say any more than that the government is taking this matter seriously. We realize that there is likely to be a gap between the time the intercontinental missile is available to a potential enemy and the time an effective defence against the launched missile will be available. Therefore during that interim period we feel that it is necessary to provide all the passive defence that we can provide in order to help our nation survive under the nuclear bombardment should all our efforts to deter the enemy from going to war have failed.

Some progress is being made. As you will recall, earlier this spring the announcement was made that the army would take over greater responsibilities. Since that time an intensive study has been made of the requirements. The organization of the army in Canada has been pressed ahead, and additional training has been given.

Questions were asked with regard to the warning system which will, after September 1, be the responsibility of the army. The army, will have additional personnel they can make available in order to improve the warning system which has been in existence in the past. Additional communication links will be established over and above those which have been set up under the Department of National Health and Welfare and the civil defence organization. It will be necessary to man some of these centres permanently for 24 hours during the day because there exist these possibilities of attack without any warning, and we cannot rely on one system of communication. There will have to be duplicate systems.

A question was asked with regard to the steps which are being taken for liaison between the army commands and the provinces. It will be recalled that the Prime Minister made announcements earlier this year in connection with the arrangements which were being made for the future allocation of duties in the field of civil defence. As I think all hon. members are fully aware, there has been set up here in Ottawa a central authority consisting of a committee of officials, military officers and others to work out all the details. There will be permanent representatives of that committee in provincial capitals for