

*National Security Measures*

other friendly nations combat aggression by other nations with a greed for power. Some of these nations are friendly today. By visiting the war graves in Europe we are reminded of the cost of past wars. We need only visit the war memorials to see the scars left by wars.

We spend money on insurance policies for protection in the event of accidents, fire and sickness, even though we hope they will not strike. Canadians who are charged with the protection of our citizens must be prepared to spend money to defend our country, not only from outside aggression but from internal strife. We must be prepared to protect our sovereignty and to contribute toward the maintenance of world peace. We must recognize our total commitment. Our involvement must be limited to our capacity to pay for such commitments. We do not become proficient by introducing policies without a fundamental appreciation of our aims and objectives or just for the sake of change. This change reminds me of the sensational unification policy of the then Minister of National Defence.

It is not my intention to labour this point of the responsibility for evolving Canada's present role in the over-all spectrum of defence. However, I want to make it clear to those who are responsible for reviewing current policy that it was not a military decision to unify the forces. The responsibility was beyond them. It is a pity that there were not more resolute hearts among the ranks of the admirals, generals and air marshalls who retired in disgust, or that there were not fewer opportunists. It was an exercise in sensationalism for the sake of being sensational, and an exercise in drama for the sake of being dramatic. It was as expert a public relations job as we will ever see.

The results are well known. Those left with straightening out the mess over the past few years have been belaboured with trying to resolve a breakdown in morale and efficiency. However, I have no doubt that the remaining military-oriented and experienced commanders will resolve the travesty. Will the cost ever be known as well as the waste of manpower? Those who brought our fighting troops to victory and glory were cast aside. In their retirement, they must sit and wonder why this happened. I realize that reminding us of the past is an exercise in futility, but I think it is as worth while as the lessons we learned in military schools to study the battles which we have lost in order that we do not lose again.

In the last white paper on national defence, our military roles were listed as maintaining Canadian sovereignty, aid to the civil power, contributing to deterring war and even to aid in economic development. It will be interesting to read what our new strategy will be in defining our role under the present Minister of National Defence (Mr. Macdonald). I sincerely hope that a clearly defined policy will be produced which will last beyond a couple of years, because it is embarrassingly obvious that we have had more changes in the past few years than should normally be expected with clear, military thinking.

We have had integration and continuous cutbacks in our naval forces, army and overseas commitments. We must have a sensible appreciation once and for all with

[Mr. Marshall.]

regard to our aims and objectives, commensurate with what we can spend in the next few years. We must make up our mind whether we will stand up and take our place with an adequate armed force or depend on the American capability to defend North America.

With regard to the future role of our forces, if we cannot maintain a large enough force to react to all emergencies we should seriously study the role of our reserve forces which are being reduced to a state of ineffectiveness. Since World War II the role of the militia has been almost an annual exercise in futility, with changing roles. The support of the reserve forces has been passive, to say the least. I suggest to the minister that our reserve forces should be considered with much more realization of their value in terms of being prepared in case of need and to realistically support the parent, regular forces. I can assure the minister that the 17,000 individuals in our reserve force and militia are dedicated. From the standard of officers whom the minister meets at the conference of defence associations, I am sure he has seen that these part-time soldiers want to play a role on behalf of their country.

The ability of our forces to react in situations such as the Quebec incident emphasizes that training in the militia could be directed to realistic support of our regular forces in aid to the civil power. It is worth asking what would have happened last October if the forces had had to react to more than one such incident. Given encouragement, logistic support and proper training, militia men would be ideal for such duty. Their local, on the spot familiarization gives them the opportunity to train in co-operations with police, firemen and emergency measures organizations. The example of tasking elements of militia units to regular force counterparts and periodically exercising personnel in Europe was successful beyond expectations. This emphasizes the ability of our Canadian youth to quickly adapt by exposing them to the expert training ability of our regular forces.

Another failure on the part of our experts in the role of the militia was to ignore, other than by passing motion, the participation of the conference of defence associations. This always ended in asking them to ratify a plan which was already decided upon. I hope the minister will correct this error and remember our new philosophy of involvement at every level of our society.

If our budget does not permit the maintenance of an adequate force, we must build up our reserves to meet our requirements. In order to accomplish this we must be prepared to provide a sensible nucleus of regular force staff to direct and ensure efficiency in training and in logistic support. The most serious problem in the reserves today is the turnover of personnel. This is due to a lack of training in administrative cadre across the country.

Some years ago the department initiated a series of six-week special militia training courses to provide our young citizens with a basic exposure to the requirements of civil defence. This was an important issue at that time. It was also initiated to overcome a lack of employment which existed. I remind the minister that the cabinet could give serious consideration to reviving such a pro-