

*Supply—National Defence*

made to the discussion. He opened his remarks by referring to the threat and amplified remarks I had made previously regarding the threat. In substance his remarks and mine were similar. We both agreed that for the immediate future the manned bomber was the main threat. We both agreed that it was a diminishing threat and that as the years went by the intercontinental ballistic missile would become more and more the primary threat. He painted, and I must agree with him, a terrifying picture of what might happen if this country were ever attacked with nuclear weapons, either missiles launched from submarines or fired from bombers. Peace, as he said, or words to this effect, is being maintained at the present time by the mutual fear of destruction.

We recognize, and I stated this morning, that at the present time there is no defence against a missile once that missile has been launched. Therefore we must do everything possible to prevent these missiles being launched. Until some more satisfactory arrangement can be made, the aim of the west is to retain a strong force of retaliation so that any would-be aggressor will recognize the fact that if he started a war his fate would be sealed in that our forces of retaliation as they are at the present time are adequate to bring about the total destruction of any would-be aggressor. I believe they have enough sense that they are not going to rush headlong into aggression.

These powers of retaliation have to be effective and Canada recognizes, as the Leader of the Opposition pointed out, that one of our main contributions as far as the air defence of this continent is concerned is that of the security of the forces of retaliation. We are providing that security in two ways; first, by maintaining and improving the warning system which was started a number of years ago and year by year has been strengthened and developed, an adequate warning system against any bombers that the would-be enemy might have at the present time. As I explained this morning, these warning systems are being developed so that shortly they will be able to track and locate missiles which are flying high in the atmosphere, thus giving warning to the forces of retaliation so that they may move from their air bases.

In addition, we are maintaining forces which will be capable of destroying bombers that may be sent in conjunction with any missile attack which is launched. We are providing that by two systems of defence, first, interceptors and the second line, if you like to call it that, being an interlocking chain of Bomarc batteries stretching across the continent from the Atlantic to the

Pacific. The Leader of the Opposition suggested that the interceptors should be based as far north as it is possible for them to go so that they may engage hostile bombers in the unsettled part of northern Canada.

**Mr. Benidickson:** I hope not in Northern Ontario.

**Mr. Pearkes:** That we would like to do, but the present interceptors have to be controlled, if they are to be really effective, by radar ground environment. A few years ago that was pushed as far north as it was considered practical to do so. The Pinetree line was established. Steps are being taken this year, as I announced this morning, to push some of these major radar stations farther north.

There has been talk about the projected United States air force interceptor, the 108. That will be, if it is finally developed, a very expensive aircraft equipped with its own radar installation and it will be able to operate farther north and independent of the ground radar establishments.

At the present time we have an adequate defence if you take into consideration that portion of the continental defence which is being provided by Canada as well as that portion which is being provided by the United States. It is an adequate defence against the threat of today. That defence will be improved steadily year by year and I believe it will keep pace with the threat that can be expected from Russian bombers for several years to come.

I repeat that the Bomarc and the interceptor are no defence against the missile. We shall have to wait several years yet before there is an adequate defence against the missile once it has been launched. Therefore, we must place the emphasis on the powers of retaliation, principally represented by the bombers of the strategic air command of the United States air force, and it is imperative that we make those bombers of the SAC command as secure as is possible.

The Leader of the Opposition spoke about the fear that we might be developing a fortress America complex as opposed to an Atlantic or NATO complex. This morning I gave some figures regarding the functional division of the estimates for this year. If you will refer to the remarks I made this morning you will see that 21 per cent of the funds requested in those estimates are to be devoted specifically to NATO defence, whereas for the defence of the Canadian-United States region, including all the army field forces in Canada, 23.8 per cent. Now, those figures were arrived at before the decision was reached to re-equip the air division, and as the re-equipment of the air