

Great Britain. What is he talking about? Nonsense.

Mr. Hellyer: I doubt that opinions on this subject would be unanimous in other countries any more than they are here. There are bound to be people in all countries who think as the hon. gentleman does.

Mr. Churchill: I hope there are not many more people in the world like the minister, who is a self-centred egotist.

Mr. McIntosh: Does the minister remember the answers given by his former advisers when they were asked whether they had held discussions with their counterparts in other military forces of the world? Does he remember what these military officers in the service of other governments told his advisers when asked what they thought of this plan to decimate the Canadian forces? I recall specifically what General Simonds said with reference to a conversation he had had with his opposite number in the United Kingdom. He said: "Those people thought we were nuts". The minister should also remember that when he first introduced this bill in the house we on this side said that if he were not careful we would be the laughingstock of the world as far as our armed forces are concerned.

The minister tried to create the impression that he was bringing in a new idea which would revolutionize the military thinking of the world. In my opinion that was a ridiculous claim. The concept of a single service is not something new, and the minister knows it perfectly well. It has been discussed and discarded by practically every country in the world. The proof is on record. The minister has no basis for saying that unification will be successful.

● (3:10 p.m.)

Once the minister demolishes our services it will take years for us to put them back into shape after we come into power in the very near future. The minister is costing the country millions and millions of dollars. Everything he has said in regard to unification has not come to pass. He said it would save the country money but the last estimates which he introduced increased the defence budget by \$115 million. Indeed, one might say that those people who are getting the contract for the new uniforms are possibly the only ones who will benefit from unification. For the minister to say that other countries will profit from this Canadian experiment is ridiculous.

Clause agreed to: Yeas, 57; nays, 17.

23033—961

National Defence Act Amendment

On clause 5—*Embodiment.*

Mr. Churchill: Clause 5, Mr. Chairman, is very much like clause 2. It reads as follows:

(1) The services known before the coming into force of this part as the Royal Canadian Navy, the Canadian Army and the Royal Canadian Air Force are embodied in the Canadian Forces.

That is followed by subclause (2). In the original bill which was discussed by the defence committee it read as follows:

The Canadian Forces continue, as a single service, the services known before the coming into force of this part as the Royal Canadian Navy, the Canadian Army and the Royal Canadian Air Force.

I drew attention to the fact that this implied no change in the services and that the three well known services would continue. As a result the judge advocate general, had a second look at it and accepted suggestions advanced by opposition members because, being non-partisan, he does not recognize political distinctions. The clause was therefore reworded.

This clause draws attention once again to the obliteration of the Royal Canadian Navy, the Canadian Army and the Royal Canadian Air Force, and in their place we are to have the Canadian Forces or the Canadian Armed Forces. Away goes the tradition of the armed forces of Canada which have had distinctive names ever since their inception. No longer can we speak with pride of the Royal Canadian Navy. The word "royal" is anathema to the government party and they want it struck out.

The Royal Canadian Air Force, which like the navy established a magnificent record in wartime, is no longer to be spoken of as such. The men who are flying the transport planes and so on are only to be members of the Canadian Armed Forces. There is to be no special distinction. The pride that was felt by members of the Royal Canadian Air Force will disappear. It was a great distinction to belong to the Royal Canadian Air Force. Quite properly that force received attention during the second world war. It and the navy were active before the army units were employed. The Royal Canadian Air Force fought in the Battle of Britain, the battle that saved civilization in this country. Yet this minister, supported by his colleagues and the Prime Minister, who to my mind is the guilty one in the whole exercise, is wiping out that great tradition.

My hon. friends opposite laugh. They want nothing to do with the past. They want to