

*Supply—National Defence*

**Mr. Pitman:** To deal with another subject which—

**Mr. Hellyer:** I wonder whether we might carry on this discussion for another three or four minutes and complete it before we turn to another matter.

**The Deputy Chairman:** The hon. member for Peterborough has the floor unless he yields to the hon. member.

**Mr. Pitman:** I will yield.

**Mr. Hellyer:** I should just like to say this. I listened in sorrow to the minister's pitiful remarks of a few moments ago. He has advised this committee that the graduates of this course will be of continuing service in respect of survival operations. Yet surely one of the prerequisites of survival operations is survival equipment. If there is no connection between the graduates and the army or the emergency measures organization, they have no access to equipment. If they have no equipment, how can they fulfil the function for which they were trained? This is fundamental to the argument. It does not matter how much training they have; if they have no equipment with which to work and if there is no chain of command, they are completely ineffective to fulfil a survival role, which is the role for which they have been trained.

What is required in this instance is some leadership. The minister and the government are not providing the leadership required. He has demonstrated again this afternoon that there is a mental block between the army and the emergency measures organization, that there is a cleavage of authority between them whereas they should be completely co-ordinated. He said the co-ordination is in the Prime Minister's office. He said that is where the co-ordination is taking place. The co-ordination that has taken place so far could then be characterized as a paper salad. It has been tossed and turned and no one really knows who is in charge in case of emergency. That is something the minister should tell us. He should also tell us whether the records of these graduates are stored in bomb proof shelters so that in the event of an attack the emergency measures organization will be able to find them and send them letters asking them to report, or communicate with them by whatever other means they would be called upon in case of emergency. These are pertinent questions on a very serious subject.

He says, of course, "If you go and talk to any of the people concerned with the course they will all tell you it has been a success". Perhaps most of them will do so, but perhaps some of them might be afraid to express what

they really feel as, on a related subject, I hear that the minister was in Gimli recently and that he went around the base there asking civil servants and members of the armed forces how they were going to vote. I should ask the minister what right he has as a minister of the crown to do this. Second, perhaps this is the reason he expects that members of the armed forces and civil service would be disinclined—

**Mr. Harkness:** I rise on a question of privilege. The hon. member for Trinity has made a completely unfounded assertion for which he has absolutely no authority whatever. I have never on any station I have visited asked anybody how he was going to vote. As a matter of fact in an election campaign I have never asked anybody how he was going to vote. That is not the way in which I carry on electioneering. That is perhaps why I have been here a great deal longer than the hon. member for Trinity, and why I shall still be here a great deal longer than he will be. The hon. member is so naïve that apparently he thinks the way to electioneer in his own constituency or any place else is to go and ask John Jones how he is going to vote. I can tell him right now that is a great mistake. I can assure him and the committee that this assertion he has just made is completely false.

**Mr. Hellyer:** I am obliged to accept the minister's word. All I can say is that the person who passed the information to me was asked by the minister how he was going to vote.

**Mr. Harkness:** If the hon. member has any information along that line I wish he would send it to me.

**Mr. Hellyer:** Then you would fire him.

**Mr. Harkness:** No.

**Mr. Hellyer:** The minister certainly would do so.

**Mr. Harkness:** I will get a sworn statement, as a matter of fact, that there is no truth whatever in that assertion.

**Mr. Hellyer:** And if I obtained a sworn statement from him, the minister would fire him.

**The Deputy Chairman:** Order. I recognize the hon. member for Peterborough.

**Mr. Cathers:** I rise on a point of order. I think the hon. member for Trinity should withdraw the statement he has made.

**Mr. Chevrier:** I do not think the hon. member who has just interrupted knows the rules of the House of Commons. The rule is that if