

National Security Measures

Mr. Harkness: I said I hoped we would gain from them.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Then he deprecated progress at the disarmament meetings and asked what they had established. We have established the treaty banning atmospheric testing. I would also remind him of the treaty prohibiting the use of the seabed for military purposes, as well as the treaty against the use of nuclear weapons in outer space. Then there is the forthcoming treaty, we hope, regarding bacteriological warfare. I agree that progress in the disarmament meetings has not been as great as we would have liked, but I think the hon. member does a disservice to the progress already made in deprecating it in the way he did.

I would also refer to the initiatives taken by President Nixon bilaterally with the Soviet Union, not only in regard to SALT but with regard to the Middle East, as well as the negotiations being conducted by the three occupying powers in Berlin and the Soviet Union.

I should also like to say something about Willi Brandt, who after all is not notoriously pro-communist either. If the hon. member will recall the vintage years from which he springs, Willi Brandt was the leading spokesman for Berlin at the time of the Berlin blockade. Willi Brandt and his Ostpolitik recognized that if there is to be a solution to the question of security in Europe, negotiations have to be opened bilaterally with the east.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): And he is in real trouble with it.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): The hon. member says he is in real trouble. I suppose that if I were asked to form a judgment as to who knows better the affairs of West Germany, the hon. member for Edmonton West (Mr. Lambert) or Willi Brandt, the answer would be obvious. Let me also remind the hon. member for Calgary Centre that the parties to NATO have decided on mutual and balanced force reductions as a desirable step, and that it should be an initiative taken by the alliance. The NATO countries have been in close co-operation in the development of a plan to bring about a European security conference. Virtually everyone on the international scene is in favour of negotiations with the Soviet Union to try to lower the temperature of international crises, with the possible exception of the official opposition in this Parliament.

Mr. Harkness: I myself said nothing to the contrary. Forget the red herrings and come to the thrust of my argument.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, I am always concerned that I might be dull, but I am at least glad to have attracted the attention of the hon. member.

There are a few further points I should like to make about the motion itself. I refer to the second paragraph of this rather rambling grab-bag of criticisms expressed in the somewhat ungrammatical terms of the motion. The hon. member refers to the north and aid to the civil power and argues that the role of the armed forces requires clarification, and that they are ineffective. I would suggest to him that having been in the north with

[Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale).]

me last weekend, and he having had the advantage that I have not yet had of taking a northern surveillance flight, the hon. member for Dartmouth-Halifax East should know better than to make that particular reference. Let me remind him of the great change during the last several years in government policy in regard to the involvement of the armed forces in Canada's north.

Mr. Forrestall: Do you consider 59 people in the north to be our commitment there?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): The hon. member knows better than that. He was in the north during an operation under the control of those 59 people and he knows that the full resources of the Canadian armed forces are available at the direction of northern headquarters as and when they are needed in the north.

Mr. Forrestall: Why don't you give us the real facts?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): The hon. member made his speech this morning, and although he may feel it was not a good one he should at least let me make mine. He and I have just returned from the opening of the northern region headquarters which will be the co-ordination centre for Canadian armed forces who go to the north. These activities have been much intensified over the last several years. For example, there are Arctic surveillance flights on a regular basis now from Canadian Forces Base Comox and from Greenwood to provide for continuous aerial surveillance of the Arctic.

There has also been intensified training in the north, both summer and winter, for mobile command land forces in the New Viking exercises, so that in course of time all Canadian land forces and combat troops will have experience of exercises of this kind in the north.

• (3:10 p.m.)

There has been an involvement of the Corps of Engineers from Chilliwack in the construction of the Ogilvie River bridge on the Dempster highway. So we have been giving some attention and interest to other proposals put forward to us to have further use made of talents, particularly of the engineers, in connection with work in the north. There is the suggestion, for example, of Mayor Paul Kaeser of Fort Smith that DND assistance might be forthcoming in the construction of a highway program through Wood Buffalo National Park, to which we have been giving some study. There has been the construction of six new airstrips in conjunction with the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. I think one of my colleagues will be commenting on that in due course.

Last year the Maritime Command held the first anti-submarine exercise in far northern waters since 1961. That squadron operated into Hudson Bay. The operation will be repeated this year both as a training exercise and, with the fleet support ship involved, to re-supply ports and civil installations along the west coast of Hudson Bay. CF-5 aircraft have been operating in the north in connection with trials at Frobisher Bay and land forces operations there. In other words, the northern region