

*National Defence Act Amendment*

achieve unification in Canada by branding everyone who does not speak the same language or is not of the same race. Name calling, whether it be between person and person or race and race, will never make Canada what I want it to be.

I hope the small contribution I made during the war will not be misinterpreted, because at that time I was fighting for the French Canadians as well as the English Canadians and the Indian Canadians. I fought for the little creek out west as well as for the little creek in Quebec, and the acreage surrounding it. So let us stop calling each other names. Let us take a good hard look at our defence. Let us not indulge in negative emotionalism, which is just as bad as positive emotionalism.

We should all be aware of the contribution made by the people of French origin in this country, the members of the Royal 22nd Regiment, which is second to none. I may be wrong and I stand to be corrected, but it is my understanding that an exception will be made in the case of the Royal 22nd Regiment so far as unification is concerned, in that it will be allowed to keep its proud traditions. If such is the case, why then should we ask all other units to give up their traditions? There is good reason for allowing the Royal 22nd to keep its name, and the reason is that in two world wars it has made that name immortal. There is no virtue whatsoever in burying traditions which are worth keeping, but I would be the first to bury those traditions which tend to divide us.

The hon. member for Saint-Denis did not take the trouble to remind the house that I spoke four times in the flag debate for a total of 160 minutes. I am not ashamed to advise hon. members to get out their *Hansards* and read my speeches. If anyone can find one word in those speeches which tended to inflame our differences, rather than to beg for mutual respect, which I expect and which I give to every Canadian citizen, I will resign my seat in the house. During those speeches I was interrupted and was told to my face that I would be "rubbed out". I did not lose my temper because I realized that those were emotional interjections which were not to be taken seriously by anyone who wants us to be a great nation—which we can be and which we are.

It is unseemly for us to put anything above the welfare of Canada. We need a department of defence which represents parliament and therefore the people of Canada. We need a minister who is not only daring but who

[Mr. Bigg.]

bends an attentive ear for all those people who can help him achieve this great end. Having served under men like Lieutenant General Guy Simonds I cannot believe that he would do anything but give the minister, directly or indirectly, the kind of advice which comes from the bottom of his heart.

I cannot believe that men, some of whom have served in the Royal Canadian Navy for more than 30 years, would do anything but give the minister the kind of advice which they believe will make Canada's navy even better than it has been throughout our magnificent history. The same applies to our air force. By the turn of this century we may have to move into a category of defence where space looms large. I hope that the other branches of our services, which relatively speaking are falling in importance, our land, naval and air services, will be given proper emphasis and the proper number of dollars in their kitties. Are we to be panicked into unifying our forces, without thought, merely because in the past there were those in the armed services who thought more of building a little empire of their own than they did of serving Canada, or those who would rather climb over the next in rank in order to get the brass. No doubt there would be such people in Canada but they are few and far between, or else Canada would not have the finest naval, air force and army personnel to be found anywhere in the world.

We are not happy to give up our traditions. We are proud of the gallant men whose ranks are thinning, men who made greater sacrifices and gave greater service to the country than I ever did. I had to see the Battle of Britain from the ground. I was in England for four and a half years and ate the rations which were brought across by our merchant navy, which has not as yet received the recognition which I think it deserves. Who would not rather have been an infantry officer in England stationed in the sunny south downs than chief petty officer in the stoke-hole? But these little things are not important. There is not a serving member in the Canadian armed forces who cares more about medals or uniforms than to serve the country and keep it free.

● (5:20 p.m.)

I am sincerely worried about whether or not Canada will ever take her part again in fighting, if necessary, an aggressive war for freedom. I do not know when a war is aggressive and when it is purely defensive. The little training I received taught me that in