

The CHAIRMAN: Is this going to be a question?

Mr. HELLYER: It might wind up that way.

Mr. SMITH (*Calgary South*): Well, that will be quite a change.

Mr. HELLYER: Thank you, Mr. Smith. You are extremely complimentary this morning.

The CHAIRMAN: Well, keep it straight.

Mr. HELLYER: For example, there is approximately three-quarters of a billion dollars for equipment which, if it is to reach its full effectiveness, has to be armed with atomic weapons of some kind or other. This includes navy equipment, air force—the 104, the SAGE Bomarc system, and so on.

Now I think it is too much for the government to ask parliament to vote not only the amount of money we are being asked to vote for this year, but also to commit the Canadian people to this continuing very substantial expenditure unless we have a much more forthright disclosure of what the government's policy is.

I would not expect the deputy minister to comment on this. However, I think it is unfortunate that the minister himself is not here this morning. I think he should come to the committee of the whole house and be prepared to state categorically what the government's policy will be in respect to the navy, and whether it will eventually be equipped with atomic weapons; also, what the justification is for continuing with these destroyer escorts and the tanker program at a time when it is obvious to everyone they will not be able to deal with contemporary equipment.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Hellyer, we have been through this about five times. Do you have any further questions?

Mr. HELLYER: Yes, I have a question but, unfortunately, the deputy minister is not the one to answer it.

The CHAIRMAN: Well, the minister could not be here this morning; he had an important cabinet meeting which he had to attend.

Mr. HELLYER: Why should this committee be asked to approve expenditures and commitments involving hundreds of millions of dollars when the government policy, in respect to their effectiveness, has not been decided upon?

The CHAIRMAN: You would not expect the deputy minister to answer that question.

Mr. HELLYER: No, and I said so.

The CHAIRMAN: Have you any questions for the deputy minister on this item, or may it carry?

Mr. WINCH: On the understanding it can be discussed under first item when the minister is here?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes.

Item agreed to.

#### GENERAL SERVICES

Item 231. Grants to Military Associations, Institutes and Others as detailed in the Estimates .....	\$223,795
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Mr. CARTER: Why the 10 per cent decrease in this?

The CHAIRMAN: Wait until I explain it.

Item 231 starts at the bottom of page 324, continues the full page of 325, and goes to the first paragraph of page 326, and a total of \$223,795 is there shown.

Then, vote 232 is the grant of \$1,600,000—if you wish to mark it in your book; and the Grants to the Provinces and Municipalities for Civil Defence and Related Purposes in the amount of \$4 million, is vote 233. Then the next