

*Supply—National Defence*

We should not lose sight, either, of the important and often neglected part played by 55,000 civilian men and women in the defence effort—the civilians who perform essential tasks in support of their uniformed co-members of the defence department. In the dockyards, in the magazines, in the repair depots, in the supply depots—in many varied and yet important tasks—as well as in their more routine administrative and office duties, they are doing their best to strengthen Canada's defence. They are in a very real sense part of Canada's defence force.

They are, I must say in all honesty, sometimes ignored by critics in assessments of Canada's defence effort, although they are, I am sure we all realize, essential to its success. And, incidentally, because they have no need for military training and do not qualify for military benefits, they can do many jobs just as well but at less cost than men or women in uniform.

If in our defence program we have achieved some successes—and these are evident to military experts who have seen our men in action in Korea or who admire their competence in NATO's war exercises—it is because of our emphasis on quality, on education, on training. It is because Canadian industry has brought ingenuity and tremendous competence to the job of making the guns and ships and planes we have asked of it. But it is, I am confident, above all because of our professional approach to our service responsibilities.

It was, I believe, Clemenceau who said that war was too serious a matter to be left to the generals. The fact is, today, that it is far too complex and too technical a matter to be left to the amateurs—only professionally trained and experienced servicemen can cope quickly with the weapons and tactics of modern war.

To meet our commitments, both in creating the deterrent and in being able to react immediately if the deterrent fails, we must provide forces in being, completely trained, equipped and immediately ready.

That is why Canada today has nearly 15 times as many forces in being as in March, 1939, while the number of our reserves has not changed substantially. In other words, our forces in being, which numbered 8,000 before world war II, now total 116,350; our reserves, at 55,000, are 1,000 more than in 1939.

I might remind the committee that NATO places great emphasis on forces in being. This has been asserted again and again by NATO leaders.

In 1939 we were quite unready for war. Today we have in full fighting trim an army

brigade and an air division in Europe and at home a mobile striking force and three infantry brigade groups in the army; an effective air defence system and other supporting units with more than 3,000 planes in the air force; and a navy with 40 fighting ships at sea and a still greater number under construction or conversion or in reserve.

Our services are well trained, well equipped, well disciplined. In character, in training and in resolution we have I believe as high a quality of serviceman as any country in the world.

As more and more the requirements of modern war tend to become interrelated, the Department of National Defence, through the co-ordinating efforts of the chairman, chiefs of staff and the joint staff organization, has brought the three services into ever closer working relationship. More than 900 officer cadets are in training at our three tri-service colleges.

It is certain that this trend towards a more unified approach to the defence problem must continue if all the services are to make their maximum contribution to the defence effort and most efficiently manage the defence systems that they are best fitted for. As we move into the use of guided missiles it is more important than ever to have the navy, army and air force in close co-operation, agreeing on their particular fields of endeavour.

As I have said, Canada on occasion pioneers in defence planning, as, for example, in manpower policy. The United Kingdom "Statement of Defence 1956" has these words:

For the highly technical armed forces of the future, we require a substantial proportion of men of long service and experience.

General Maxwell D. Taylor, chief of staff of the United States army, in an interview a few months ago, also emphasized the need for a professional army when he said:

I much prefer a good army, an army in which I'm sure of every officer and man, to a bigger one of less reliability.

The U.S.S.R., by shifting emphasis from quantity to quality, also seems to be working towards more streamlined and professional forces.

For some time now Canada's armed forces, I believe, have had a higher percentage of fully trained personnel than those of most other countries. In recent years, without undue difficulty, and without lowering our selectively high standards of recruiting, we have been able to maintain our forces at about planned size, and we have been able to persuade a relatively high percentage of our recruits to make the services their career—a most important factor in the build-up of first class regular forces.