

Government Policy on Air Defence

who are engaged in that industry at the present time. It would seem to me that the hardship that will result from unemployment in this industry, if nothing is done, is something the government should study most carefully, and should have been studying most carefully. It appears to me that there should be other plans for alternative employment within the industry, if possible, for the production of other things such as, perhaps, aircraft for peaceful uses. It seems to me that there certainly should be action that would prevent lay-offs of thousands of Canadians, thus adding to the unemployment rolls and making it more difficult for Canada to regain a state of full employment.

We listened with interest to the Prime Minister's statement that there would be a sharing of the defence costs of North America. We emphasize to the United States, as I am sure do all members of parliament, that we feel a very substantial part of the orders necessary for this type of defence should be placed in Canada in order that our economy should not suffer from the necessity of having to spend large sums of money on collective defence while at the same time not receiving our proportionate share of the orders.

The Prime Minister has said, and the Leader of the Opposition has agreed, that there is great danger attached to the dissemination of nuclear weapons among a great many hands. That of course is true. It is easy for us who have these weapons to point out this danger, but the nations which do not have the weapons seem to think it is necessary for their national pride to obtain such weapons, and this being the case I think it is all the more necessary for all nations to devote their full energies to the reaching of an international agreement on disarmament.

While the government has not fully declared its policy in this regard, I would hope that the Canadian government in dealing with the NATO countries as far as Germany is concerned would advocate within those councils a neutralized Germany within a neutralized large area of central Europe as an alternative to nuclear weapons within that area and the great dangers that this would involve.

I believe we are in a position today to have some hope with regard to the forthcoming negotiations with the Soviet union. We believe that social democrats and freedom loving people in Europe in growing numbers are coming to think there can be an agreement with regard to Germany under which we make some concessions in return for other concessions, all of which will lead to greater security for peace in the world.

[Mr. Argue.]

We are talking today about the CF-105. We are talking today about protection against a potential aggressor. That is important. It is important to peace and it is important to our future. But are we going to arm ourselves in adequate fashion against a potential act of aggression that may never happen—we all hope it will never happen—while at the same time playing no part in the tremendous surge of energy now being devoted to the conquest of outer space? It would seem to me that because of the great scientific advance toward the conquest of outer space much of the conflict which has been going on between the west and the east as far as jurisdiction and the control of people and the economics of the earth are concerned might in the near future be transferred largely to the conquest of outer space, and I suggest that within a partnership for this very important peaceful operation Canada should also be playing its full part.

If we had such an operation it would seem to me that in this way we should be doing something to protect our security in the days ahead. Defence, necessary as it is, is a negative thing, and I suggest it is time that Canada played an active part in the thought that is being given by leading people in the United Nations to the conquest of disease throughout the world, the promotion of medical and health facilities, and greater emphasis on the conquest of hunger and the removal of hunger from all parts of the world.

The announcement by the Prime Minister is important and far-reaching. We hope that in the days ahead Canada, in this and other ways, will play a constructive role in securing the peace of the world.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**REQUEST FOR DEBATE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, particularly in view of the statement the Prime Minister has just made on defence policy, I wonder if he could inform the house whether an opportunity will be afforded at an early date to discuss external affairs, a subject which is a related aspect of defence.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I hope hon. gentlemen in all parts of the house will agree to have a day set aside for the discussion of external affairs, and if it can be arranged among the various leaders next Thursday will be a possible date. In so far as a general discussion of defence is concerned, we hope that within the very near future the defence estimates will be available so the fullest discussion can take place.