

Supply—National Defence

many of the free nations of the world. Another threat coming from the Soviet union takes the form of political action outside its own borders, the threat of communism itself, a way of life, which could affect many countries of the world, and particularly some of the less fortunate peoples living in undeveloped countries. This action, economically, politically and militarily, could directly or indirectly affect our own existence in our own beloved country of Canada.

Added to these threats is the one which probably causes us the most concern at the present time and it arises out of sheer brute strength of the two strongest nations on earth, pitted like two giant gladiators, ready to do battle at the slightest provocation and only inhibited by the knowledge that each is capable of instantaneously destroying the other. To ensure our survival as a free nation, it is essential that our foreign policy, therefore, our defence policy, take account of all the factors that have a bearing on the nature and extent of the threats to which we as a nation may be subjected. It is to be deplored that Canada which might have exerted a positive influence for good in the world has allowed its leadership in the cause of peace, particularly as affecting those nations which could have together formed a wedge between the two strong antagonists, to become subordinated to the demands of short range defence policies.

Many hundreds of millions of dollars have been spent by Canada to build and staff air defence warning lines. Also the United States government has been allowed to build the distant early warning line and to share in the cost of the mid-Canada line, as well as to build and man many air defence installations in Canada. Mr. Chairman, despite what our treaties and agreements with the United States may say, it is inevitable in our nation that all such arrangements in times of peace will in one way or another have the effect of compromising our national policies, compromising our sovereignty, and thus have the effect of binding us to many of the major foreign and military policies of the United States whether we agree with them or not.

In exchange, we have simply the certitude that in any war fought directly between the U.S.S.R. and the U.S.A., Canada will become a radioactive graveyard. Six thermonuclear bombs or missiles would utterly destroy the Canadian nation. Yet our air force and air defence warning lines and the whole paraphernalia of NORAD, for which we have sacrificed our independent status, will not keep out ICBM's—I hope the lights have not gone out because of an ICBM.

Mr. Mr. Winch: Nobody is running for cover.

Mr. Winch: I am not running for cover and neither are you. I want to say that no matter what happens—you see, I give light—

Mr. Hamilton (Noire Dame de Grace): You brought the darkness too.

Mr. Winch: That is because you did not wait until the end of the sentence. Nor will all we have keep out a submarine fired missile nor has any competent military man ever attempted to say for a moment that they could even keep out every attacking bomber.

From all we have heard from the Minister of National Defence today, from all we have heard from the Leader of the Opposition and from all we have read we know that if even one thermonuclear weapon did land on a Canadian city there would be a catastrophe on a scale almost impossible to imagine. It therefore follows that our defence warning lines and NORAD would only make sense if they could guarantee that no thermonuclear weapon could get through. This they most definitely cannot do, neither now nor when they were conceived or at any time in the future.

Our close alliance with the United States is not and never was a question of facing the realities of a world containing two giant and hostile powers. The only defence, as we see it, against thermonuclear attack is to have the ability to retaliate in kind and that, of course, means a balance of terror. Our air defence warning lines and NORAD, irrespective of all that has been said or all the wishful thinking that goes on, do not prevent the possibility of a thermonuclear attack on the American continent. Only the United States strategic air command does that. Neither the U.S.S.R. nor the U.S.A. dares attack the other since neither can be sure of destroying the other's thermonuclear capability. If the Minister of National Defence made anything clear in the 39 pages of his text he made it clear that neither the U.S.S.R. nor the U.S.A. dares attack since neither one can be sure of destroying the other's thermonuclear capabilities.

The Deputy Chairman: I am sorry to advise the hon. member that his time has expired.

Mr. Winch: May I ask permission to continue?

The Deputy Chairman: Does the committee give unanimous consent to the hon. member to continue?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Winch: I appreciate the courtesy of the committee. The Liberals and the Conservatives between them, Mr. Chairman, have