

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

defence budget and has made suggestions about militia training. I am not an expert in that matter and do not want to talk about it; I am merely speaking as one who has taken part in debates on this question in this House.

There have been several reorganizations. Three or four of them have been of major proportions. Yet I frankly wonder what is in the minds of our military planners when they shuffle the various military units and companies around my province. Before coming here I took out my defence file, which is not very thick. Having thumbed through all the statements that Bill Lee made about unification of our forces, I came to a clipping which was issued in 1954 and said that one of our infantry regiments was to be moved from Fredericton to Saint John. I refer to the Carleton and York Regiment, one of our old, historic units. Now, 16 years later, we are told that the only company left in Saint John is to move back to Fredericton. Incidentally, they have no rifle company in Fredericton.

There are good reasons for retaining "B" Company in Saint John. It is not a weak company; it is the largest unit of the Saint John garrison which includes a considerable amount of artillery. The artillery unit is the third oldest in the commonwealth, according to the billing that is used. It is a strong company and includes young officers, experienced warrant officers and sergeants. Since the barracks have already been built, there should be no extra cost in connection with them. Having given this background, I hope the minister or his Parliamentary Secretary will give serious thought to the matter.

Saint John is a proud city and we have a great history of military tradition. When the Indians were running around eating pemmican, we were making fighting history in Saint John. We sent the 62nd Foot Regiment to the Northwest rebellion, and units to the South African war. As everybody knows, New Brunswick had the best record for enlistment

in World War II. This claim has stood unchallenged over the years. Some people say unkindly, that our people enlisted because of the unemployment in the province brought on by various provincial, Liberal governments. I doubt that. I think we have a proud record of achievement and heeded the call of duty when there was need.

We are taking this matter very seriously. I hope the Parliamentary Secretary at least will put his heart and soul into this project to save our unit. This would give him a chance to forget his navy background, come in with the fighting boys and do something to encourage the people of this proud regiment.

Mr. D. W. Groos (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I am not quite sure what my hon. friend meant when he told me to forget about my naval background and show an interest in one of the fighting services. There were many occasions when the so-called fighting arm of the services, the army, was glad to have the navy around to put it on the beaches and take it off again. I say those words in jest, of course. I appreciate the hon. member's remarks and understand his interest, which I share, in the historic achievements of the regiment that comes from his district.

In reply to the question the hon. member addressed to the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Cadieux), I can only assure him that if representations have been received from the Military Advisory Committee of New Brunswick, they are now being considered and the hon. member will be advised later as to the outcome of this matter. If not, inasmuch as he has sent me a copy of those representations, I will personally see that they are placed in the hands of the minister. I am sure they will be considered quickly and that he will be advised of the outcome.

Motion agreed to and the House adjourned at 10.07 p.m.