

understand the principles of discipline and responsibility. There should be means of attracting young people to this service, particularly in the light of the extensive maritime concerns of the country. There should be means of developing a nautically-oriented cadet movement, rather than driving possible members away. Samplings indicate that the sea cadets wish to stay with their traditional uniforms and not be put in safari uniforms. As I say, undertakings were given on April 13, 1976, and those concerned were later encouraged to believe those undertakings were still valid. But on January 20, 1977, it was all over.

It is important that the youth of the country and the direction of this movement should feel a sense of satisfaction with an effort well directed, undertaken by a group of people toward a single goal. The object of it all is to inculcate strong community values and make good civic training available. The effort is not necessarily directed toward supplying recruits for any branch of the Canadian Armed Forces. It is directed toward turning out young men and women with high national and community motivation. The cadet movement is to be commended on doing this, and the services are to be commended for encouraging them. But the youth of the country should be encouraged to join the movement, not discouraged from doing so.

The Department of National Defence has no claim on these cadets, though the facilities of the department are used, admittedly. Some of the cadets go to the coastguard service. Others go to college, or to the police force, or to private life. Some go to the Armed Forces. But they all finish their cadet training as better citizens. It would be a tragedy to turn youth away by refusing them permission to wear the traditional uniform of their choice.

On the cost side, it has been demonstrated to my satisfaction that the differential could be as little as \$1.19 per uniform, and this does not take into account the difference in the price of the proposed uniform of some \$4.50 more for a raincoat. This is additional to what is now being paid. An extra \$50,000 spent on raincoats alone is hardly justifiable.

● (2220)

[Translation]

**Mr. Marcel Roy (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of National Defence and his parliamentary secretary, I shall answer the hon. member's question.

### *Adjournment Debate*

I said from the outset that I worked myself with the cadet corps in the riding of Laval and I am completely opposed to what the hon. member mentioned, namely that national unity could be related to the colour or the cut of the cadet corps uniforms. I think that national unity should rather be related to discipline and to some basic principles on which I cannot expand this evening. However, I think that discipline and training are much more essential to the unity of the country than the colour of the uniforms.

[English]

Under the authority of the National Defence Act, the Department of National Defence has the responsibility for the training of cadets and for the provision of the material such as clothing and equipment, training aids, etc., to support the training.

In 1972, after a careful review of several factors, the department decided to provide a common green uniform for the navy, army and air cadets. However, procurement action was not initiated until after the ninth meeting of the national cadet advisory group held on December 6, 1974, when the presidents of the navy, army and air cadet leagues all agreed to the adoption of the new green uniforms.

**Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich):** They did not agree at all.

**Mr. Roy (Laval):** On January 21, 1977—

**Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich):** They were told.

**Mr. Roy (Laval):** Mr. Speaker, my time is limited and I would ask the hon. member to give me the chance to give some information. On January 21, 1977, after discussing the new uniform with cadet league officials, the Minister of National Defence announced that the sea, army and air cadets would receive green uniforms similar in colour to those worn by the Canadian forces. In his announcement the minister said that the leaders of the cadet leagues and senior forces' officers would select distinctive badges and colour combinations for the sweater and headdress of each cadet service.

The foregoing is the policy of National Defence with respect to uniforms for cadets, and I might add that as recently as last Thursday the hon. member was advised of the policy personally by the Chief of the Defence Staff at a meeting of the Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence.

Motion agreed to and the House adjourned at 10.25 p.m.