

formation has constituted, one-third of the fighting strength of the commonwealth division in that war theatre.

I think we also have reason to be satisfied with the part the R.C.A.F. played through 426 squadron in the transportation activities since July 1950. The planes of that squadron have made 434 round trips; have travelled over five million air miles, have carried over 5,250,000 pounds of cargo and mail and more than 10,000 passengers, including the members of the forces. They have been assisted by planes chartered from Canadian Pacific Air Lines, which performed 350 return trips. Those planes chartered from C.P.A. were passenger planes and carried no cargo, but they travelled something over 3,500,000 air miles and carried upwards of 17,000 passengers. Most of that was done by a plane about which there was much criticism some years ago, namely the North Star. We were all happy that these almost 9,000,000 miles of air travel were accomplished by those Canadian planes without any untoward incident whatsoever.

Of course it is true that we all feel and greatly deplore the price, in lives and in anxieties borne by their families, that is being paid by the presence of these men of ours on the fighting front in Korea in the part they are taking in preventing war. But that is an inevitable part of the price that has to be paid by free people who wish to remain free and who take pride and comfort in the fact that their young people appreciate the freedom under which they live to the degree that it makes them volunteer to run the risks they are obliged to run when, to uphold the institutions of this country, they go and take their chances for survival in foreign lands.

This aggression in Korea made it more necessary than we have perhaps realized to proceed as rapidly as possible with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. I think we take some satisfaction in the fact that there are now six Sabre jet R.C.A.F. squadrons in England and Europe; that steady progress is being made to reach the final commitment of an air division of twelve squadrons; and that our 27th brigade group has now taken its place with NATO ground forces on the European continent. I think we have reason to be satisfied as well with the progress that is being made by our Royal Canadian Navy in co-ordinating its efforts with those of the United States Navy and the Royal Navy for the safety of the Atlantic should another war occur.

This defence effort of ours includes, as one of its parts, our mutual aid program. Hon. members know that Canada appropriated \$670 million as a share of this co-operative effort and that, out of that appropriation,

armaments have already been provided for three divisions of our NATO allies, one in The Netherlands, one in Belgium and one in Italy. We have also provided aircraft and aircraft engines for members of the NATO organization, and air training for NATO crews in our own country.

When it is said that we have nothing to show for the sums that parliament has appropriated, we should not forget that the regular personnel of our services before Korea was 47,185 and that it has recently reached over 100,000. This is the largest number ever maintained, outside of war periods, by this young nation.

Our defence effort has also included our defence production; and altogether for the last two years the appropriations made by this parliament for the defence effort have been practically one-tenth of the gross national product of the whole Canadian people, that is to say one-tenth of the volume in dollar value of all the goods and services produced in Canada by the whole Canadian people. One-tenth of the gross national product has been channelled through the Department of National Defence and the Department of Defence Production. Of course, every member of the government is responsible for what is being done by the defence departments but the principal burden of administering this one-tenth of the whole national production of the country has fallen upon the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Claxton) and the Minister of Defence Production (Mr. Howe). When one realizes that fact, one is perhaps not surprised that they should not take too much time off to reply, or have too much time for replying to criticism.

The general effect of this defence effort has been perhaps more apparent to outsiders that it has been to some of our friends on the other side of this house. I should just like to refer to a few examples of the appreciation of this defence effort shown outside of this house and sometimes outside of this country. For instance, the London *Times* of August 28 had an article dealing with the commonwealth division and headed "Success of a Unique Military Endeavour". I will not take time to read the whole article, but will content myself with reading just a few short lines.

Security forbids mention of the detailed composition of these brigades, but it is known that the Canadians are represented by the Royal Canadian Regiment, the Royal 22nd Regiment (known as the "Vandooz" because of their French-Canadian composition), and Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, supported by gunners of the Royal Canadian Horse Artillery and tanks of Lord Strathcona's Horse. These Canadians have seen plenty of action, and their performance has been unsurpassed.