

*Supply—National Defence*

in Germany? If so, roughly what proportion of the total strength would be represented by them?

**Mr. Pearkes:** As to being on the strength of the brigade group, may I say that there are some liaison officers attached to the brigade group. They are very few in number. Would the Leader of the Opposition be referring to civilian personnel who are employed? There are a number of German civilians employed and there might be a few men who have enlisted into the Canadian forces and who have not Canadian citizenship. No doubt he will remember that some Dutch bandmen were engaged on certain special terms a few years ago. There might be some of those.

**Mr. Pearson:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, that is what I was thinking of. I read a report the other day which surprised me because it showed that a relatively high percentage of the United States NATO forces in Germany were non-Americans, were Germans. I wondered whether there were many German civilians on duty working with the brigade group and how many Germans had been enlisted into the Canadian brigade group who are not now Canadian citizens.

**Mr. Pearkes:** I do not think we are enlisting any men of German nationality into the brigade in Germany, nor do we send over with the brigade any Germans who have not become Canadian citizens. I do not think there are very many, if any, who are non-Canadian citizens other than those who have been specially enlisted as bandmen.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Is it not true that there are a considerable number of immigrants—I do not know how large the number is—who have enlisted in the Canadian army here in Canada, who have not yet become Canadian citizens and who have been dispatched overseas in the ordinary course of their service? As the minister will probably recall, when he was in the opposition and I was still a member of the government I sponsored certain amendments to the Citizenship Act to make special provision for cases of persons of that sort counting their service overseas as a residence in Canada for the purpose of getting citizenship. While most of those amendments related to the wives of servicemen acquired while they were over there, there was also provision for what I am told were not actually isolated cases but a certain number of cases of immigrants to Canada who had enlisted in the forces and who had in fact gone overseas.

**Mr. Pearkes:** Those are the type to which I have been referring. They consist mainly of a few bandmen who have been enlisted.

[Mr. Pearson.]

There are some immigrants to Canada who have enlisted here in the services and have perhaps returned to Europe with their units but they would not include—and care has been exercised that they do not include—any immigrants or any enlisted men of German nationality.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** But there might well be persons of other European nationality?

**Mr. Pearkes:** Yes; of course there are very few.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** And perhaps there are British subjects who are not Canadian citizens.

**The Deputy Chairman:** Shall vote 219 carry?

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Has the minister as yet obtained the information he was going to give me? I have one or two questions I wish to base on it.

**Mr. Pearkes:** About what?

**Mr. Pickersgill:** About the accommodations in Newfoundland.

**Mr. Pearkes:** That information has not come over from national defence headquarters as yet. We shall have to check on the matter. I shall be pleased to give it to my hon. friend.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Perhaps I could ask one or two questions now. It might perhaps facilitate matters.

**Mr. Pearkes:** Yes.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** The minister will recall that when we were still in office property was acquired in Newfoundland in St. John's on which an armoury was to be built. Has any further progress been made in respect of this armoury? As the minister will realize, ten years and more have now elapsed since Newfoundland became a province of Canada. There has never been an armoury in what is now one of the larger cities of Canada. I cannot imagine that there is any other provincial capital that does not have an armoury. It seems to me that this is something that might reasonably be done even though perhaps, by a strict counting of heads, a stronger case might conceivably be made for some other place.

I know I discussed this matter with the minister's predecessor shortly before he ceased to occupy the position now occupied by the minister and I, not for the first time, pressed this argument fairly strongly upon him. He acquired the land and he gave me every reason to hope that if the public had favoured us a little bit more in 1957 the armoury would have been started by this time. I hope the minister—whose party were