

*Interim Supply*

must be on a continental basis. It can no longer be confined to the boundaries of a country. We cannot be expected to defend Canada only at our boundaries. We must enter into alliances with other countries on the North American continent. At the present time we are participating in continental defence. But, Mr. Chairman, if through the minister's unification this glorified police force comes into being, then we would have to depend wholly on the United States forces to defend us. I do not think that we, as Canadians, want that.

Another factor to take into consideration, if what I have just referred to is allowed to take place, is our prestige in the eyes of the world. How long do you think that Canada would be looked up to if what I have referred to is allowed to happen? Not for very long, I suggest, Mr. Chairman.

Some people suggest that our actions will likely force an election. As an earlier speaker said, we do not want an election nor do I think the country wants one, particularly at this time. It is said in the press that an election, if held, would be in January. I do not want to go around my part of Canada in the middle of January, because I know I shall not be able to reach many places that I should reach. We do not want an election, and we do not hide that fact. But you are the people who will say whether or not we shall have an election. The whole outcome rests on your decision. Let us end this speculation, because we will not quit. If there is to be any change, it has to be on the part of the government which is responsible for this issue at the present time.

It is your responsibility to administer the procedures of this house, and let us not forget that. The government's threat of an election over this issue is nothing short of blackmail. This may not have been the only time that the government has used such a threat, but I say again that we are not going to succumb to blackmail, under any conditions, on this issue.

**Mr. Churchill:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. McIntosh:** And if an election is called, the responsibility for that election will be on the shoulders of the Prime Minister and the present Minister of National Defence. The issue will not be national defence, as some of my colleagues have said. There are many other issues on which this election will be fought in our home ridings.

[Mr. McIntosh.]

When the hon. member for Fraser Valley was speaking I interjected. I did not mean that interjection to be facetious. I wish to add, now, that you cannot ride the fence on this issue. You are on one side or the other. Possibly some people in this house would like to ride the fence, and they say, "A plague on both your houses".

**Mr. Duquet:** There are people like that in your party.

**Mr. McIntosh:** I beg your pardon?

**Mr. Duquet:** You have those who ride the fence.

**Mr. McIntosh:** Tell us who they are.

**Mr. Churchill:** Name them.

● (4:50 p.m.)

**Mr. McIntosh:** Other parties in this house are saying: "A plague on both your houses." They are lying back, hopeful that this battle between the Grits and the Tories is over they will be able to pick up the spoils. I do not think that will happen in Canada.

I trust this will be the end of speculation as far as the press is concerned. We told them on the opening day of this debate that this was what we intended to do, and we do not propose to capitulate now. I should like to remind hon. members on the other side of a few things which are being said by the press across the country at the present time. The present debate had been going on for a few days before the people of Canada were aware of what was taking place. At first, the editorials were largely opposed to the stand the Conservatives were taking. But as the commentators looked into this white paper and saw that no satisfactory answers were contained in it, they began to take a different view.

I should like to refer to an item on November 7 in the *Winnipeg Free Press*, which has always been regarded as a Liberal supporter. Indeed, we thought sometimes, that it dictated Liberal policy. This article makes seven points which are interesting to read and which I believe the minister should take into consideration. It says:

Although the government would like to create the impression that integration is being accepted largely without question in the armed forces and throughout the country, this is not the case.

Surely, members opposite can listen to their own advisers, even if they will not listen to us. The article goes on:

There is also a genuine feeling on the part of some senior officers that the current policy of promotion