

*The Late George R. Pearkes*

The question is on the amendment. The Hon. Member for Humboldt-Lake Centre.

**Mr. Althouse:** Mr. Speaker, we have concerns about the powers that have been used by Revenue Canada personnel and by the Act. I suppose it is not just the powers of the Act that are of concern, but more precisely some of the powers through Orders in Council and by internal operating procedures of Revenue Canada. As part of my presentation here today I would like to review three or four instances which I think highlight some of the abuses that are referred to, both in the motion and now in the amendment. I would like to go through those three or four examples. It would be more convenient if we could do them back to back, Mr. Speaker. Since it is pretty well the hour for adjournment, I propose to call it one o'clock and proceed after the lunch hour.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel):** Before we adjourn, I would like to clarify one point. I should have put the motion at the end of the speech. I am sure the House will agree that the Hon. Member may continue his speech by unanimous consent after lunch. Is it also agreed to call it one o'clock?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

[Translation]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel):** Order. It being one o'clock, I do now leave the chair until two o'clock this afternoon.

At 1 p.m. the House took recess.

**AFTER RECESS**

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

**THE LATE GENERAL GEORGE R. PEARKES**

TRIBUTE TO ILLUSTRIOUS CANADIAN

**Hon. J.-J. Blais (Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, it is customary to take a few moments to pay tribute to an illustrious Canadian who is no longer among us. I am of course referring to General George R. Pearkes who died this week at the age of 96. I would like to express to the House and to all Canadians, my admiration and respect for this illustrious Canadian, and recall the many services he rendered to this country.

[English]

In his long career General Pearkes touched many Canadians, as a keeper of the peace with the Royal North-West Mounted Police, as a hero among heroes in the First World War, as a staff officer and educator in the Canadian Army, as a politician, as Minister of National Defence, and as a representative of the Queen in British Columbia.

[Translation]

He will undoubtedly go down in history as the soldier who received the largest number of decorations and awards from the Canadian Forces. He will be remembered for his courage. He was wounded five times but was always prepared to serve his country when danger struck.

[English]

But for many Canadians who had the privilege of knowing him, General Pearkes will be remembered as a courtly gentleman of enormous integrity, a man who devoted his life to public service, and an example to all the people of Canada for generations to come.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Yukon):** Mr. Speaker, many Canadians who knew General Pearkes in his later years as an outstanding Defence Minister in the Diefenbaker Government and Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, were unaware that he was a genuine Canadian hero.

He left the Royal North-West Mounted Police of fabled memory, where he was serving in Whitehorse, Yukon, to go overseas in the First World War, where he won every available medal for bravery and distinguished service, from the Victoria Cross, Great Britain's highest honour, to the Croix de Guerre, and including the Military Cross, Distinguished Service Order, and the United States Order of Merit. He was wounded five times, and was mentioned four times in despatches.

Following the war, he continued his military career as General Staff Officer at Royal Military College, Director of Military Training at National Defence Headquarters, and Officer Commanding, Military District 13.

In World War II he gathered new laurels as Major General in command of the First Canadian Division overseas.

In 1945, at a time when most men are thinking of retirement, he undertook a new career in politics and soon demonstrated the same qualities of courage, devotion to his country, and rugged honesty which he had displayed on the field of battle.

As Minister of National Defence in the Diefenbaker Government he upgraded the weaponry and equipment of our fighting forces, recognized and respected the NATO and NORAD commitments to the full and, in spite of his army associations, regarded the air as the first line of defence.

Both the Arrow and Bomarc controversies erupted while he was head of the defence portfolio, and with wit, honesty and good humour, he bore criticism for decisions which were based on carefully considered recommendations of the Chiefs of Staffs based on their conviction that manned bombers were already obsolete.

When he left the defence portfolio to assume the Lieutenant Governorship of British Columbia in 1960, George Pearkes was undoubtedly grateful for the opportunity to leave the turbulence of politics.