

Private Members' Business

NORAD has now in place or any other system that might take place.

The so-called star wars of the United States, the Strategic Defence Initiative, does not even claim a capacity to provide protection against that kind of accidental or terrorist attack.

The time has come to completely review and change our approach to the North American air defence system. The key to how we change that comes in the comments of the then Secretary of State for External Affairs because the time has come for us to begin urgently to build a polar security arrangement.

The Soviet Union now needs our economic and social help desperately. It would not be unreasonable, in fact, it ought to be a required condition of that assistance that the Soviet Union join with Canada, the United States and other polar countries to form a completely different form of security than that which has served us for the last 40 and 50 years and which is now obsolete.

The government has pointed the way to that. I would expect the government to respond more quickly.

Gorbachev himself said in 1989 in Murmansk that this was the direction he wanted to go. The then Secretary of State for External Affairs accepted that in the very speech from which I have quoted, but we have heard nothing from this government since then to respond to those initiatives. In fact what we see is the government renewing the NORAD agreement without any condition as to this being the final term of the agreement. We see no sense of urgency from the government in changing the approach it takes to North American defence.

The government has not done what the committee asked it to do, which was to launch a full public review of these policies. It has remained absolutely silent on that. The government continues to spend hundreds of millions of dollars a year on NORAD. In the current fiscal year we are proposing to spend something in the order of \$500 million on NORAD. We have in train a very expensive capital upgrading of NORAD facilities which is costing the Canadian taxpayer \$1.214 billion, of which \$500 million is still to be spent.

There is no sign whatever of the government getting off the train and saying that the time has come to save

Canadian taxpayers this money and to look at different ways of approaching the issue of Canadian sovereignty, of surveillance in the north and of polar security.

This motion calls on the government to start the clock running on the end of NORAD by advising the Americans now that the termination of this agreement must take place and set in motion a process of discussion most particularly with the Government of the United States of America. Clearly one of the key problems is that the Americans perceive that NORAD should just continue as if nothing else had happened.

It is important that we make it clear to the Americans that we see a different future for the north and a different future for Canadian participation in continental security.

The requirements have changed. The world has changed. It is now necessary for the government to change. I would ask the House to endorse the motion that is before it, to give its wholehearted support to it, and to see if we cannot get some of these issues finally moving.

Many questions need to be asked and if I can, Mr. Speaker, let me quote from Ken Lewis, president of Aerospace Industries Association of Canada, who when he came before the committee posed some of the questions, and this is from the aerospace industry.

Is there a likelihood of an attack by the Soviet Union or others against North America? If so, under what circumstances? If not, what is the threat? If there is no perceived threat, or one of little consequence, should Canada disengage from the joint defence of North America by not renewing the NORAD agreement? If disengaged, what kind of an aerospace defence system would be needed by Canada?

That is the nature of the questions being posed by our aerospace industry. We say to those on the government side who perceive themselves to be friends of the aerospace industry that that industry needs some assurance as to where things are going. The government can no longer keep its head in the sand on these issues. It has to move and this House could give leadership to the government by agreeing to the motion today.

Mr. Patrick Boyer (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, our Prime Minister has said that Canada does not want to be a super power, just a super country. However, it has been our