

NORAD—Canada-U.S. Agreement

In my constituency lie two reserves, that of Hobbema, with a population in 1956 of 1,786 people—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. I regret to interrupt the hon. member, but I must read the motion before I permit him to carry on. It is moved by the hon. member for Timiskaming (Mr. Peters), seconded by the hon. member for Kootenay West (Mr. Her-ridge):

That the bill be not now read a second time but that the subject matter be referred to the standing committee on privileges and elections.

Mr. Speakman: As I was saying, the population of Indians at Hobbema in 1956 was 1,786, and at Ma Me O, 1,230. Both these populations have increased since that time. On the two reserves there are between 50 and 60 veterans of the two world wars, all of whom, with their wives, have this voting privilege. In addition, these veterans share the privileges given to their people namely the right to treaty exemption from taxation in various forms, free educational facilities and, in the case of these two reserves, an income from oil royalties in connection with two very productive oil fields situated on the reserves.

For too long the Indian population of Canada has been sheltered and protected as wards of the crown until their desire to make decisions on their own is almost gone. However, with better education facilities—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. It being six o'clock I do now leave the chair.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

NATIONAL DEFENCE

NORAD—APPROVAL OF EXCHANGE OF NOTES BETWEEN CANADA AND U.S.

The house resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Diefenbaker:

That it is expedient that the houses of parliament do approve an exchange of notes constituting an agreement between the government of Canada and the government of the United States of America concerning the organization and operation of the North American air defence command (NORAD) signed at Washington May 12, 1958, and that this house do approve the same.

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, at five o'clock when the debate on this resolution was suspended I had been attempting to deal with the terms of the agreement that is before the house and also to deal with some of the observations that had been made by the Prime Minister, more particularly the suggestion by

[Mr. Speakman.]

him that the previous government had in fact in all but name approved the setting up of the North American air defence command. And while I hope I was able to prove that this was not the case, nevertheless, Mr. Speaker, even if that observation had been accurate it surely would have been a strange thing for an incoming government, and perhaps a touching indication of confidence in the preceding government, if it had accepted an important arrangement of this kind without the kind of consideration one would normally give to something that had been worked out by a previous government.

I also was trying to show that there is no foundation for the suggestion that NORAD is in any way, shape or form a NATO command; and also that while NORAD, as the Prime Minister said, is a purely defensive organization in its functions and in its scope, nevertheless by the relationship which it has to the strategic air command of the United States and by the information it can give to that command on which that command would act and only on that information, it has some very far-reaching functions indeed. In the kind of emergency which we hope will be avoided—NORAD will, strictly speaking,—have far more than air defence functions.

Then, I was looking at the agreement itself and the principles which are outlined in it. I dealt with one or two of them and I come to page 3, which has this paragraph:

The two governments consider that the establishment of integrated air defence arrangements of the nature described increases the importance of the fullest possible consultation between the two governments on all matters affecting the joint defence of North America, and that defence co-operation between them can be worked out on a mutually satisfactory basis only if such consultation is regularly and consistently undertaken.

The Prime Minister referred to the necessity for such consultation this afternoon. I, of course, join other members of the house in agreeing that consultation between the two governments is now more important than ever in view of the integration of our air defence commands and I ask the government, had there not been such consultation before the signing of this agreement and have new procedures for consultation been worked out consequent upon this agreement, reflecting perhaps the increased necessity for that consultation. Could they enlighten the house as to what they are?

The next paragraph of this agreement outlines the principle that should govern the future organization and operations of the North American air defence command and the first principle, which is a very vital one, is that:

The commander in chief of NORAD will be responsible to the chiefs of staff committee of