

*Ways and Means*

**Mr. Pearson:** That matter is now being discussed in New York, as to how this expenditure should be allocated to members of the United Nations and whether its members who make contributions in kind should be given credit against their contributions in money.

**Mr. Knowles:** May I ask whether Canada will be making any contribution toward the cost of clearing the Suez canal?

**Mr. Pearson:** I cannot answer that question. It is already included in the discussions going on as to how the \$10 million will be used, and there is a great difference of opinion as to who should be responsible for the financing of the clearing of the canal.

**Mr. Bell:** I should like to ask a question of the Minister of National Defence. We all know that Canada now has available no merchant ships, but we have been told that it is possible to recall some in cases of emergency. I should like to ask the minister whether in this case inquiries were made about the possibility of getting troopships or other ships or whether it was just decided to use the *Magnificent* for convenience and in the desire to bring the navy in on the show. I would further appreciate knowing from the minister what he feels should be done in the future with regard to the need for merchant ships in defence circumstances.

**Mr. Campney:** Dealing with the hon. member's first question, may I say that no consideration was given to requisitioning ships, for two reasons. First, there was some thought that the force might have to move by air. Second, if it did not move by air it was felt, at the time this decision was taken, that the *Magnificent's* value as a mobile base and her availability made it unnecessary to consider merchant shipping.

With regard to the second question, as to the usefulness of merchant shipping and the merchant ship policy of the government and of the country, I think that is a rather large question to introduce into this particular matter. We all know the situation and we all know that in time of war ships are at a premium. Beyond that I do not think I would care to venture an opinion in the situation as it is today.

**Mr. Michener:** Although I received many answers and am grateful for them, there is one more question which I think the Minister of National Defence might answer if he can. Do these Canadian forces pass exclusively under United Nations command when they join the force? If so, for how long are they committed?

**Mr. Campney:** To answer the last question first, they are committed as long as we leave them with the United Nations force. We can bring them out any time we like. They are under our control ultimately. Second, with regard to committing them to the United Nations, the situation today is that they are committed to the United Nations for operational purposes. But so far and subject to any procedure which may be developed hereafter, they are administratively still under our own control.

**Mr. Winch:** Just so as to have this matter clear may I ask this question. Am I correct in thinking that the contribution of Canada to the emergency force is being paid for by Canada, and is subject perhaps to an arrangement afterwards with the United Nations; but now it is being paid for by Canada?

**Mr. Campney:** That is correct.

**Mr. Harkness:** I should like to ask the Minister of National Defence how the gap is to be filled which will be left by the dispatch of this transport squadron to Naples for employment there to ferry troops and equipment to Egypt. As I understand it, that transport squadron was part of the air portability section of our airborne brigade. The airborne brigade was deficient in the number of aircraft available to transport it, in any event, and I have been somewhat worried as to what its situation would be now.

**Mr. Campney:** The situation is somewhat restricted by this immediate allocation to the United Nations force. It has led to some rearrangement, but we still have a substantial number of transport planes and for the time being—and I may say that we have on order new and additional transport planes now—we shall be able to get along without too much difficulty.

**The Chairman:** Shall the resolution carry?  
Item agreed to.

Resolutions reported and concurred in.

## WAYS AND MEANS

**Hon. L. B. Pearson** (Secretary of State for External Affairs) moved that the house go into committee of ways and means.

Motion agreed to and the house went into committee, Mr. Robinson (Simcoe East) in the chair.

**Mr. Pearson** moved:

That towards making good the supply granted to Her Majesty on account of certain expenses of the