



*M. Hamilton*

## DAILY AIRMAIL BULLETIN

INFORMATION DIVISION  
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
OTTAWA - CANADA

*(For official use only. This bulletin is intended solely for the information of Canadian Government officials stationed abroad. Its contents are not for publication or distribution. It is based largely on press reports not verified by the Department which can take no responsibility for their accuracy.)*

Vol. 6, No. 117

Friday, June 17, 1955.

No Lessening In Defence Effort, Says Mr. Campney: Ottawa, June 16 (CP) --

Defence Minister Campney, opening Parliament's annual review of his Department's spending estimates of about \$1,775,000,000, told the House of Commons the Government does not intend to lessen its defence effort despite peaceful gestures from behind the Iron Curtain.

"Defence is costly and will no doubt continue so," Mr. Campney said. "The present climate of international affairs appears to be moderating but we cannot be sure that the better weather of recent months will endure."

The Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Drew, said that the Army should be reorganized into small, mobile, hard-hitting airborne units which could be flown to meet aggression anywhere in Canada. The same should apply to the militia, the non-permanent force.

At present, Canada has about 8,000 trained paratroopers but no self-contained airborne units. Overland transport now is the rule.

The Opposition Leader said the airborne units he proposed would include infantry, artillery, service corps, medical corps and armoured corps.

Mr. Drew said such a plan would help solve the army's manpower problem, because young men to whom appeals for enlistment are made would know that they were part of the most modern army in the world.

He said Canada still needs conventional army units. But it needed "conventional units used in an unconventional way."

Now that West Germany was to be rearmed, Canada would need fewer army units. Canada, therefore, could begin planning for compact, mobile units.

The need for conventional army units was shown by the fact that wars had been fought in Korea and Indochina without the use of atomic weapons.

The threat of destruction in any thermonuclear war offered the best assurance such weapons would not be used and likely would deter "the most brutal dictator in the Kremlin."

Mr. Drew said every single unit of the Army should be airborne. This was the only way Canada could meet the threat of enemy paratroopers dropped from planes in the Canadian north.

Armed Forces Strength 117,999: Ottawa, June 16 (CP) -- Strength of Canada's armed forces stood at 117,999 at April 30, Defence Minister Campney announced today.

Opening a defence debate in the House of Commons, he said the personnel increased by almost 1,000 since the preparation of figures for a Defence White Paper tabled in the House earlier this month.

The breakdown by services: Navy, 19,292; Army, 49,187; RCAF, 49,520.

(over)