

Supply—National Defence

as the Americans now have them. It is armed with the Sidewinder; it carries six Sidewinders of two different types. I have spoken to the men right on the job, and they said that if there is any change in the fire control system it will take months to carry out any switchover. We are already buying them, and therefore the minister knows right now what kind of fire control system he is having installed on the CF-104. If he does not, we have no business in purchasing them and having them delivered.

I do not know just what the minister takes hon. members for. We are talking about a serious matter in a serious manner, and I wish the minister would consider the questions and the discussion in that light.

Mr. Harkness: Mr. Chairman, all I can say in regard to that is that the CF-104 will be equipped to take eight different types of weapons.

Mr. Hellyer: Mr. Chairman, the point is simple. The Canadian government accepted the strike attack role. At the time the Canadian government accepted the strike attack role the Canadian government knew it was an atomic role. Now the question is, does it intend to fulfil its commitment to NATO, or does it not? We have a right to know now, because if the Canadian government has no intention of fulfilling its commitment to NATO then it should discontinue the expenditure on the CF-104 and apportionances at once and we should not have a duplication of the cancellation of the Avro Arrow which happened after \$400 million had been spent.

If, however, the government continues with the production of this aeroplane and apportionances, the Canadian people have the right to assume that it is going to live up to its commitment to NATO and arm the aeroplanes with nuclear missiles. We want to know, because we are the representatives of the people who have to vote the moneys to buy the carriers which are to be used for carrying nuclear missiles, whether in fact the Canadian government intends to fulfil its commitment or whether since it originally made the commitment it has changed its mind for one reason or another and does not intend to fulfil its commitment.

If it has changed its mind since the original commitment was made, it is the duty of the minister, in his capacity as representative of the government on this occasion, to advise the committee the reasons why the Canadian government has changed its mind. Surely we are entitled to this basic, fundamental information before we continue increasing what was first a \$125 million and is now to be a \$174 million expenditure in one fiscal year.

Some hon. Members: Carried.

Mr. Winch: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask one more question. I understand from reading the newspapers this morning that the Voodoo aircraft is now operational in Canada and has been transferred from some United States squadrons. As they have been transferred from United States squadrons and are now operational in Canada, could I ask the minister with what type of weapon the Voodoos in Canada have been equipped.

Mr. Harkness: They are equipped with the G.A.R. Falcon, with a conventional type of warhead. It is an air-to-air rocket and missile.

Mr. Hellyer: Mr. Chairman, is the minister not going to answer the questions which I raised and which were raised by the Leader of the Opposition?

Mr. Harkness: I do not believe that the hon. member for Trinity has raised any questions which require any further answer than has been given on numerous occasions in this house and outside of it. I think the position of the government in connection with nuclear weapons has been made abundantly clear and I see no use in continuing to repeat what has been said so frequently before.

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Chairman, the minister may see no use in continuing this discussion which is concerned, among other things, with the ultimate expenditure of something over \$408 million, I think, on an air division in Europe, but we see some use in trying to get answers from the minister to questions which are very vitally important.

I think I am right in saying that the minister said a few moments ago that the first of these CF-104 aeroplanes would not be delivered to the air division in Europe until about a year from now. The decision to equip the air division with these aeroplanes was made some time ago and it is certainly, to say the least, unfortunate that it will be 1963 before the first aircraft is delivered. The minister also said that in respect of nuclear weapons the government is waiting for NATO to decide the control of nuclear weapons in the hands of NATO forces in Europe. But no decision is required in respect of the use of nuclear weapons by United States and United Kingdom forces in NATO, because they already have custody of those weapons.

I am perfectly certain in my own mind that if the United States high command had known that in 1962 the Canadian government would not have made up its mind as to whether it would permit the air division to perform effectively the role it has undertaken, the