

Supply—National Defence

could make would be not to wait until the United Nations has to call upon us as a result of a local war, and then be delayed because we have no air transport, until we have to change an aircraft carrier; our job I feel is to have a force, equipped and mobile, that can answer immediately an appeal by the United Nations. I have no hesitation at all in saying that from the record of Canada and from the statement concerning the condition of our armed forces and their mobility as given by the Minister of National Defence, there should be a transfer of hundreds of millions of dollars, which is proposed to be spent on something that cannot be of any assistance to Canada at all, to something that would make the Canadian military forces completely mobile and completely equipped. They would then be able to answer immediately a call from the United Nations and be in a position to make a contribution to a world police force in order to maintain world peace.

Mr. Pearkes: I should like to have the opportunity of referring the hon. gentleman to page 5392 of *Hansard* from which he will see quite clearly that I made no such statement that we could not move a battalion. I was referring to a brigade, and a brigade is somewhere around 5,500 troops, while a battalion is less than 1,000 troops. It is a question of being able to lift a battalion, with all their equipment at one time.

Mr. Winch: That is what I said, a battalion with all its equipment.

Mr. Pearkes: As soon as the new aircraft are delivered, and that should be this year, we should be able to move without any difficulty a whole battalion with its equipment at one airlift.

Mr. Winch: I am sorry to interrupt but I said that you said until we get that equipment we could not move a battalion with all its equipment. We cannot now move a battalion with all its equipment with our present air force.

Mr. Pearkes: I think it might be of some interest to the hon. gentleman, since he was talking about the Middle East, to give some idea—

Mr. Winch: Am I correct in my statement? I said we could not move a whole battalion with all its equipment.

Mr. Pearkes: Does the hon. member mind if I finish this statement? In order to give him some idea of the amount of transportation which is carried out in that area by transport command I would say that last year transport command flew, outbound from Canada to Egypt, 1,645 passengers and cargo

amounting to 469,769 pounds. In addition to that there is continual transport going on of personnel and material between Canada and Langar in the United Kingdom and to our forces in Europe. Most of the personnel from our forces in Europe, who are single men, are transported in the aircraft of transport command. There is a like movement of personnel and material across Canada, to say nothing of the airlift of supplies to NATO and to the Arctic which is carried out by transport command.

All these aircraft could be made available in an emergency in order to move a specified force to any part of the world. We have not got, and I am not pretending to say we have, enough transport in the R.C.A.F. to be able to move a brigade although we could now, if we cancelled other operations, move a battalion. I pointed out, as mentioned in the white paper, how we are increasing transport command because I have recognized the desirability of having additional transport to supplement the Dakotas and North Stars that we have. We are getting these new 106's, which are heavy transports; the new 109 medium transport and the new Albatross SA-16B, and that is going to materially improve our ability for transporting troops.

When an emergency arises you have to take emergency measures. A few years ago when a sudden emergency came upon the government of the day a decision was made to use this ship of the Royal Canadian Navy to transport personnel to the Near East. This was an emergency move. There were not the ordinary transport vessels available at the time and probably the most economical way of loading these troops was to send them via the aircraft carrier because they could put on the decks of the aircraft carrier the vehicles they needed.

Mr. Winch: This is getting somewhat ridiculous and I hope I am not the one to make it worse. We have been listening now for two days to the story of the Minister of National Defence about the potentialities of a new war, about how it will strike without notice, how we are obliged to rely on our D.E.W. line and how it is only a worry of the United States. But if this war is going to come just like that—and I snap my fingers—without notice and nobody knows when it may come, whether tomorrow or ten years from now; and in view of the fact that the minister himself is saying that is the reason he is asking for all these hundreds of millions of dollars, just how much sense does he think he makes in what he has just now said? If it occurs tomorrow, Mr. Chairman, he could