

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

of life seen on the slide. I submit that the minister cannot stand in his place tonight and name one country that has examined what we are trying to do and followed our example. I cannot agree with any suggestion that we are guinea-pigs in regard to integration of forces. We may be guinea-pigs, but in a very narrow circle, and there is no foundation for the statement referred to by Air Vice Marshal Reyno in a speech made to a service club here in Ottawa, that every country after examining our experiment realizes that integration is the best thing to do, and that Canada is the only country that has had the intestinal fortitude to attempt it.

The Canadian Press carried a story that New Zealand looked at us, examined us by fluoroscope, by telescope, by microscope, by slide, and perhaps examined some of the speeches of the minister, which I would love to examine in more detail tonight; and having examined this question in some detail published a White Paper and decided as follows:

Examination has led the government to conclude that such a combined force would not make sense in terms of our principal aim, to gain maximum effect from the level of contribution which New Zealand can make.

The White Paper continues:

The force of this type which New Zealand could afford to maintain in peacetime would never be large enough to give a truly independent role in limited war.

I just wonder what type of force Canada intends. It is not an independent force. The United States and Great Britain forces have already been integrated with other forces, and it is superficial reasoning to think we can completely integrate our force in this mobile striking unit about which the minister talks.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, it is the factual content of Air Vice Marshal Reyno's speech to the Kiwanis club to which I take exception first, because the same day New Zealand said they were not having anything to do with it and would not touch us with a barge-pole. I understand that Britain has also produced a White Paper, which is not yet published, saying that you can integrate dental, medical and some of the supply services but you cannot take away the identity of the three services. If you take that identity away, you lose the whole morale, spirit and esprit de corps of the services. Consequently, Mr. Speaker, I take exception to the principle involved in a high-ranking officer of the services speaking on a controversial subject such

[Mr. Nowlan.]

as government policy, and making a statement of this kind.

I believe there are other officers of high and low rank who would love to speak on these matters, and perhaps the minister will tonight give them the "go" signal. The theme for today seems to be "go" whether it be in connection with the space program or anything else. The policy seems to be that you can go-go. If this is the case, the minister cannot take exception to statements of this type, but because the statement was made—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member's time has expired.

Mr. Nowlan: All I say in closing, Mr. Speaker, is that if we are making basic changes in policy in this country, we would like to know what this policy is and how it applies to speeches of high-ranking officers in the services.

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, there is no change in policy. The policy that has been in effect throughout the years, and is currently contained in Queen's Orders and Regulations, is as follows:

Any officer or man may speak publicly in respect to service matters with the permission of the Chief of Defence Staff or such other authority as he may designate. Opinions expressed by officers or men under these circumstances are their own and do not carry the endorsement of the department.

I agree with my hon. friend when he says that Air Vice Marshal Reyno is one of the outstanding and knowledgeable young officers in the Royal Canadian Air Force and I am, frankly, very much impressed with what the Air Vice Marshal says because I think it to be the fact. In so far as my hon. friend is concerned, I can assure him that in the next 20 years every country in the western world will pattern their military organization after Canada and we will in fact be proud that we were the first in this very important field.

Mr. Nowlan: Mr. Speaker, may I ask the minister a question?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Will the hon. member kindly resume his seat. The rules do not provide for questions at this time.

OLD AGE SECURITY—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON INCREASED PENSIONS

Mr. Barry Mather (New Westminster): Mr. Speaker, twice within recent weeks I have attempted to ask the government