

*Supply—National Defence*

this morning after weeks of study by a special subcommittee of our group, which findings were finally agreed to by all members. I, as the spokesman of this group this afternoon, would like to be absolutely certain that every word and every sentence is in its complete context.

Mr. Chairman, with that introduction I should like to say—I have no inferiority complex about it at all—that because of the major issue involved I rise with some little trepidation to speak on the very serious problem of Canadian defence. I am certain, Mr. Chairman, that the house will appreciate, and in particular those of us who sit in the opposition will appreciate, the very real difficulties which face us in attempting to evaluate all the complexities that are involved in the question of national defence. These difficulties, of course are aggravated as well by the lack of certain information with regard to the details of defence and also because of the lack of proper research facilities on the part of opposition members. Irrespective of that I feel we can fall back in part on an examination of what has transpired in the last few years.

When the Leader of the Opposition spoke I wondered if he had read my speech or if I had read his because I noticed that he also commenced his remarks this afternoon by saying that to understand our present position we had to examine the past. I want to go back over what has transpired in past years in order to present an insight to our present circumstances.

It will be recalled that when world war II ended Canada had at long last achieved the status of an independent though a small power. I am certain all hon. members will agree that there was no longer any doubt whatever that at that time we had at long last outgrown what might be referred to as our colonial childhood. Canada became a free nation, calling no one master, and bound to no other country by any ties stronger than those of sentiment. I am sure that this feeling of independence was pleasing to all Canadians if even though it was somewhat short-lived.

Scarcely had the war ended when the continuing communist drive for world domination became abundantly clear to all who wanted to see. By 1947 the United States was seeking the right to establish air bases throughout the Canadian north. Before very long three courses seemingly were open to us in Canada. The first was neutrality or some variant thereof. The second was an alliance with the United States. The third was an alliance with the U.S.S.R. The latter, of course, was admittedly and obviously rejected by all thinking Canadians as being

morally abhorrent. Canada chose a closer alliance with our southern neighbour, perhaps principally for reasons other than defence requirements alone, and soon our defence policy evolved as if by preordination to one closely dependent upon that of the United States. Officers were exchanged between national defence headquarters in Ottawa and the Pentagon in Washington. Canadians were sent in increasing numbers on courses and attachments to United States establishments. The continued United States occupation of three bases in Newfoundland, obtained from England in its direst hour, was accepted by Canadians on Newfoundland's accession, as if permanent occupation of the nation's soil by foreign troops in time of peace was the most natural thing in the world.

This evolving dependence on our stronger neighbour under a Liberal administration has been speeded up considerably under the Conservatives. Today R.C.A.F. officers command the D.E.W. lines sites but it is a United States company which operates the D.E.W. line and, as we know, all information recorded is sent directly to the United States. The D.E.W. line remains essentially a defence installation of another nation on Canadian soil in time of peace. Our jurisdiction is limited to contributing in one way or another to its maintenance.

Shortly after announcing the cancellation of the Arrow CF-105 contract the Conservative government in March of this year stated our new air defence arrangements with the United States. We will operate and maintain the radar lines and air bases, while the U.S.A.F. will man the aircraft required for the air defence of the United States and Canada. As *Le Devoir* put it, the United States will fly the planes and we will sweep the landing strips. This idea of defence sharing is merely an extension of the arrangements that existed at Fort Churchill which I visited along with others only a few years ago. There was a Canadian command there responsible for housekeeping arrangements only.

At this point I think it is well that I should stress that the United States has shown remarkable restraint with regard to the power vacuum to their north. That country has without a doubt achieved a major degree of military control over Canada which is not inconsistent, I suppose, with its vast control over our economy. We have not yet, however, and I hope we never will, surrender our political position or our political control. The net result has been for United States military demands to be based on what the United States government considers necessary for the defence of that country which,