

The Address—Mr. Hees

somebody else's push, it will be jeopardizing not only our national security but also our national honour.

If we continue to act like a poor relation we shall not be fooling the people of the United States or of Great Britain for one moment. We shall simply be making sure that in future we shall be treated not as a medium power but as a small power, because the people of Great Britain and the United States recognize the difference between talking big at international conferences and acting small when action is called for.

I believe it is about time the government realized that the only kind of action communists understand is strength and preparedness, and that the only chance this or any other free nation has of avoiding a third world war is by being ready to repel aggression when it strikes. I believe that if war should come it would be far better for us to have trained forces in proportion to population, ready to dispatch to other parts of the world to defeat aggression there, and to do so outside this country.

The alternative is to wait until our enemy gobbles up our allies one by one and then, with the industrial capacity of Europe and Japan and the oil of the Middle East at his disposal, to take on this continent with a war machine that has never yet been dreamed of. There may be those in the house who believe there is no obligation upon us to match the efforts of our two great allies, in proportion to population. If that is so, it will be interesting to hear their views to back up those feelings and beliefs.

I am convinced that the great majority of people in Canada feel we are morally obligated to match the efforts of our two great allies, in proportion to population. Without their strength, our position in the world today would be a precarious one indeed. The least we can do is to bear our share of the responsibility of the load. The forces we need to have in being today can be raised if the following conditions are met: First of all, the government must tell the people the true gravity of the situation and stop lulling them to sleep by quoting odds of fifty to one against our becoming involved in a general war. You simply cannot expect young men to take the situation seriously if they are continually being told that there is only one chance in fifty of their being needed. The truth is that this country has never faced a more serious situation than it does today. If the people are told, they will not fail to respond.

The second requirement is that the basis for raising the forces we need to have in being today must be our present reserve forces which have been training for the past

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five years for just such an eventuality. Units and formations can be chosen evenly across the country and they can recruit and basically train the men they need. Formation training can be carried out at the various training camps across the country. Incidentally this would give a tremendous boost to the morale of the reserve forces, of which they are greatly in need.

Third, during the training period the rates of pay and conditions of service would be the same as for the regular forces.

Fourth, if no national emergency should exist when training has been completed the units and formations could be returned to reserve status and the men to their civilian jobs. They would be subject to immediate recall in case of a national emergency.

Fifth, their training would continue on a reserve basis of one or two nights a week, with two weeks of formation training in the summertime.

Sixth, legislation should be re-enacted to protect those who enlist by ensuring their release for necessary training or service by their present employers without jeopardizing their jobs or seniority.

This plan would provide forces in being, ready for immediate call to duty, at a minimum cost to the taxpayers. It would also provide maximum manpower which would be available for both civilian and war production until such time as a national emergency would require their being called to active duty.

In conclusion I should like to say this: Let us for heaven's sake bear in mind that it takes a full year to recruit, train and equip a division, that it takes many months to train navy and air force personnel. Let us also bear in mind the size of the communist forces today and the speed with which they strike. Then let us get on with the job. Our national honour and our ultimate survival as a free nation demand it.

Mr. Daniel McIvor (Fort William): Mr. Speaker, I should like to repeat that I always have great delight in representing the banner constituency of Canada, Fort William. This may be only a statement to some, but it is a fact to us and we can prove it. My first words will be of congratulation to the mover (Mr. McMillan) and the seconder (Mr. Breton) of the address in reply to the speech from the throne. They did a fine job with dignity, respect and courtesy to the Chair and to every hon. member of this house.

I should like also to congratulate those hon. members who have been promoted and I especially thank the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) for not leaving northern Ontario wanting. We sometimes blame the provincial