

Supply—National Defence

raised with him in the defence committee 18 months ago the subject of having to pay thousands and thousands of dollars to train men. Why does he not give a bonus on re-enlistment? I spoke to him about that. However, what do we find in the minister's statement? That these matters are under advisement and consideration. That includes salaries and everything else. They are all under advisement and under consideration.

Mr. Churchill: They have a regular study group.

Mr. Winch: We need something better than having everything under advisement and consideration. It takes too much time. Last night was the time for the minister, when making his announcement as to what he was going to do to maintain morale and so on, to recognize that our armed forces personnel are professionals. It should be his policy to treat them as professionals and to keep them in the service. But no, we did not get that. Instead we got the usual platitudinous statement—"It is all under consideration and under advisement". We got double barreled statements going in two directions at the same time such as nuclear and non-nuclear and negotiating out and not negotiating out because we are proud to announce that we shall have completed our nuclear dual role at the end of this year in Europe. There was no answer at all as to the cost of obsolete weapons. There was no explanation why we spend \$3,500,000 a year to maintain the warhead dumps for our Bomarc's, our Voodoos, and our rockets for the Honest John with the brigade in Europe.

I appreciate very much that no one has called me to order. I appreciate that others wish to speak, but I did want to outline defence policy broadly and make a few general remarks. May I say this that I regretted very much the way the minister concluded his remarks last night. His conclusion dealt with the defence committee. We appreciate his kind words but I am afraid I have a suspicious mind and I think my suspicions are correct.

The Deputy Chairman: Order, please. I regret to interrupt the hon. member but the time allotted for his speech has expired unless hon. member has unanimous consent to continue.

Some hon. Members: Continue.

The Deputy Chairman: Is it unanimously agreed that the hon. member may continue his speech?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Winch: I will not take more than a minute, and I appreciate the courtesy extended to me. I think I said I have a suspicious mind and I think my suspicions are correct. The defence committee of the House of Commons is now to meet as a standing committee. I think that the minister was giving us a great deal of soft soap in the anticipatory statement he made that when we meet as a committee for the third time we will be satisfied with generalities and the odd explanation and so on. I have had the opportunity of being a member of that committee since it was appointed and prior to that I was a member of the special committee appointed a few years ago to examine the accounts of the department. Mr. Chairman, through you to the minister I say that the defence committee is an all party committee. Having sat on it I know that it is prepared to be a non-political committee. I take pride in the fact that it has been a non-political committee. If the minister really means what he says about this committee, then he is going to have to change his strategy, philosophy and approach.

I do not think I have missed more than two or three meetings of that committee in two years. The minister does not ask the advice of the members of that committee. He does not take us into his confidence, explain his problems and seek advice. Nine times out of ten on that committee we are faced with a *fait accompli* from the minister and we are told what is being done. We are not asked for our advice as to what we think should be done.

● (1:20 p.m.)

Admittedly in the final analysis the responsibility must be that of the minister and the government. But let him show a little more decency toward the committee. Use a little more honesty when dealing with this committee. Do not present it with *faits accomplis*. Take the committee into your confidence and get the viewpoint of the members of the house who are members of the committee and who are interested in national defence, interested in defence policy, interested in seeing that we make our best contribution to world peace and that we get the best return for every cent of the Canadian dollars acquired by the department. I ask the minister sincerely and conscientiously to think this over. I am certain I am speaking for all members of the committee. Treat the members right and they will respond by treating you right.