

one of their complaints. They say they do not get the Canadian newspapers.

An hon. Member: They get them.

Mr. Churchill: That is a clear indication that they are not kept informed, generally, as to what is going on in this country. They say so themselves. I have met them overseas.

An hon. Member: What do you say about morale now? What are you talking about?

Mr. Churchill: On the subject of morale. The morale of the services is at its lowest ebb. This is what I got everywhere, across the country. This minister is responsible for it. He tries to explain away his failure in recruiting, and he said it was only 5 per cent below—I wonder, Mr. Chairman, if we could have a little order, or do I have to contend against remarks of hon. gentlemen sitting opposite.

The Deputy Chairman: Order, please. May I ask the hon. members who are making interruptions to reserve their opinions and interruptions. The hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre has the floor.

Mr. Churchill: Thank you. The minister says that recruiting is only 5 per cent below last year's figure, and he was explaining to us on Thursday, and through the press, that the competition from the economy was preventing recruitment.

● (9:30 p.m.)

The hon. member for Queens, speaking today on behalf of the Atlantic provinces, said the unemployment in that area would be sufficient to fill the gap in the armed services. So who is right? Are we to believe the minister—

Some hon. Members: Yes.

Mr. Churchill: —or the hon. member for Queens? I will take the word of the hon. member for Queens any day as against that of the minister.

Then again, the fact that the associate minister had to announce on Friday that bonuses would be paid to buy people back and attract them to re-enlist indicates in itself the complete failure of the policy of the minister of defence. This is attributable to low morale and his actions with regard to those in the armed services. He threw them out. What officer is there in the services today who is assured of continuity of service? He has no idea what this minister, this great Poobah intends to do, this minister who is in

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control of everything, who sets himself up to be a commander in chief. He says he is not a rubber stamp, but he has everyone else cowed into submission.

The men who are leaving the service cannot understand the indecision, the mix-up that prevails in national defence. They do not know where they are, and this is the substance of the complaints I have heard for the last two years.

An hon. Member: Remember June 1st.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Woolliams: On a point of order. Surely the hon. gentleman who now has the floor has the right to be heard tonight as against these people who are sitting in places where they do not normally sit and who feel they should yell and shout.

The Deputy Chairman: We are on the topic of national defence and there have been shouted remarks from both sides. I think this should cease. The hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre has the floor.

Mr. Churchill: A little noise now and again is all right, Mr. Chairman. But I see that the minister, fearful of his position, has assembled a clique around him tonight. They do not have the courage to get up and ask questions and present their case. They are doing it by noise and comment; but I do not mind that at all.

Now let us see what this bombastic minister has been talking about. In the course of his remarks he made a statement, and he keeps repeating it that the philosophy of the White Paper is the establishment of mobile forces. He speaks about the philosophy of mobility as set out in the White Paper. He is creating in the mind of the public a feeling that there is a mobile force already in existence. Let us have a demonstration. Let him show us where this mobility is. For three years this minister has been in power. He has been talking about mobility for our armed forces as if this was something new. Well, 12 years ago hon. members will find these words:

My hope is that the Canadian army will become the most effective fighting force available within the NATO countries, and that it will have the full equipment for modern conditions; that it will have the mobility that is required for modern warfare, and that it will have the trained staff that is required in order to utilize to its fullest effect artillery and armour, infantry and engineers and so on. Equipped with the best of weapons, equipped with track vehicles for cross-country purposes, equipped with protective troop carrying