

National Defence Act Amendment

through the house without the support of a single colleague. Of course it is not hard to understand why they cannot get together. The minister has had some support from the Liberal side of the house. Again I refer to last fall when a speech was made by the hon. member for Verdun (Mr. Mackasey) who sought to quote various authorities in support of the minister's position. His approach to this theme was dishonest because he did not quote what those authorities had actually been saying. The hon. member shakes his head. I suggest he read over that speech and compare it with the following statement by General Foulkes, who has often been mentioned this evening. I quote this statement by General Foulkes:

The only other record of wholesale changes in the military occurred in the Hitler regime. He dismissed every general who dared to tell him what he should know and not what he liked to hear.

Check that statement against what the hon. member for Verdun said last fall. It will soon be found that the hon. member was misquoting the general in his efforts to defend the minister's policy.

I should probably refer to the minister's attitude once again because I believe it should be emphasized over and over again. In any other country he would be in jail.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): You laugh? Last fall the same minister denied what I put on record here, indicating that in any other country in the free world he would be in jail. He shook his head at that time and made a denial; but I produced for him his own words which told him what parliamentary language does not permit me to call him.

He knows he put that on record. He knows what he did. He knows that in any other country in this world he would either be in jail or something a lot more drastic would have happened to him. Yet this is the man who is today trying to push unification down the throats of the Canadian people. This is the man who has brought about the retirement of so many people from the services—people who were of great value to this country. Those who remain in the services for their own reasons cannot, or will not make their views known on the question of unification. Those who have spoken out have made their statements after voluntarily retiring from the services, and there are many of

[Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South).]

these, very capable men, who have taken exception to the course the minister is pursuing.

Where does the minister get his advice? Evidence has come to me very recently that he has rejected the advice of officers on his staff, his own boys. What about his propaganda team? What are they doing to the Canadian people? To whom are they directing their propaganda? They continue to harp the same tune—that the old soaks and the veterans do not matter, anyway. But I can tell the minister that if a national emergency arose he would find himself obliged to call on a lot of people who are today in disagreement with him. Today he says their opinions do not matter. They are primitive, to use an expression the minister used this morning. The fact remains that when some of the senior officers were retired they were younger than the minister himself. Does he believe their views are primitive?

Where does the minister get his experience? I am sure he did not gain much experience riding that motorcycle around during the war. Yet this is about all he has behind him to call upon. Where does he get his advice, and when does he decide not to take that advice, as I have indicated was the case very recently when Canadian staff officers put forward their views?

● (9:50 p.m.)

The minister has said that certain information is not available. All he needs do is go to his files or to the Prime Minister's files. Many letters and briefs were addressed to the Prime Minister, so possibly he should look in the Prime Minister's files.

I would like to see the Prime Minister come into this house and tell us where he stands on unification. Is the Prime Minister, as in so many other matters, letting the ministers run wild and make their own decisions? I recall a statement made recently by the Secretary of State (Miss LaMarsh) referring to the return to the cabinet of the new Minister without Portfolio (Mr. Gordon), the former minister of finance. She referred to him as the glue that kept them together. Someone else said that that was another way of saying they were stuck with Gordon.

But returning to the minister's propaganda team, they are aiming their propaganda at the large segment of the population under 30 years of age. They do not care about the opinions of former servicemen and present serving officers and men. I never heard of a propaganda team in a democracy previously, but thanks to this minister and his dictatorial