

NORAD—Canada-U.S. Agreement

competition with the members of other departments in the armed forces of the United States? Does he have full control over the forces under his command? Does the agreement involve us in any action outside of North America? Will Canada continue to contribute its air division to the defence of western Europe? Does this mean that there is to be a lessening of our contribution to the defensive arrangements provided under the auspices of NATO in western Europe? The Secretary of State for External Affairs said that NORAD will be Canada's contribution to NATO. Does this mean the withdrawal of Canadian air fighter forces from Europe?

An hon. Member: How silly can you get?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Someone says, "How silly can you get?" That is a good question. How silly can the hon. gentleman really get? What will be the basis of financing the operations of the integrated headquarters of the command? Why could this not be decided on now and be included in the agreement? This is going to cost money. It could cost a very considerable sum of money. Should we not know in the agreement what are going to be the respective financial obligations of the two governments?

It seems to me that these are some of the questions which we have a right to ask in order to give a full appreciation of the measure before the house.

On January 4 the Minister of National Defence said a draft note had been submitted to Washington. Why was this not tabled in parliament before the middle of May? If that note was submitted in the middle of January, surely the very character of the document before this house indicates that it should have been tabled in this house at the earliest possible date.

Mr. Pearkes: Before it was received back from Washington?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): If it was not received back from Washington, my hon. friend has an answer. But it would be interesting to know whether this government sought to obtain from the government of the United States a quicker response to a document that had been submitted to them in the month of January last.

Mr. Smith (Hastings-Frontenac): It did.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): The Secretary of State for External Affairs says it did. In any event the same arrangements might well have been submitted to the government of the United States last autumn and have been presented to this house before the prorogation of parliament.

[Mr. Martin (Essex East).]

Mr. Pallett: I wonder if the hon. member would permit a question? His time is almost up. I wonder whether he would now or before he finishes his speech put on the record the statement of the Secretary of State for External Affairs which the hon. member undertook to put on the record when he read the first statement.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Before I have finished I shall be glad to do that.

Mr. Pallett: The hon. member has about one minute left, I believe.

Mr. Speaker: I must inform the hon. member that his time has expired.

Hon. G. R. Pearkes (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I would have risen and spoken as soon as the hon. member for Kootenay West (Mr. Herridge) sat down had I not been informed that the hon. member who has just taken his seat was anxious to speak,—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Pearkes:—and I was advised that he had a number of intelligent questions that he wished to ask. It therefore seemed to me that the only gentlemanly thing to do was to give him an opportunity to ask those questions. As we are not in committee, I therefore would not have had another opportunity to speak. Had I realized that he wanted to take up half an hour of the time of this house in giving us a lecture on parliamentary history I certainly would have seized the opportunity to speak. However, he did ask some questions which I shall endeavour to answer.

He referred to the question of consultations. Over and over again I have explained that consultations take place prior to the emergency which may possibly occur. Those consultations are going on today. Those consultations have been going on ever since August 1 of last year. Those consultations have been going on ever since August 1 last year and only a few days ago General Partridge came up here and consulted with the Canadian chiefs of staff. He consulted with me and he discussed matters with the Prime Minister of Canada (Mr. Diefenbaker). Those are the kinds of consultations which are going on continually.

The Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Pearson) asked whether there was a master plan drawn up during the two days when General Partridge was visiting Canada. Plans for the defence of this country—complicated plans such as those which must be eventually completed—cannot be drawn up in a few hours. I explained that they were preliminary discussions leading up to a plan which