

Supply—National Defence

eminently suitable. I hope that these alternatives will be considered in the reorganization of the administration of which the minister speaks.

Mr. Winch: On the same question may I say that I honestly believe that the Alaska highway should be part of the British Columbia highway system and I think that eventually it will be. I do not think I need to add this word of warning but nevertheless I should like to do so. If there should be any consideration of turning the Alaska highway over to the British Columbia highway system, and I hope that will eventually come, and if the same government is in power that we have today, then for heaven's sake do not close your eyes because if you do there will be a toll on the highway.

Mr. Pickersgill: Can the minister tell the committee in a very summary fashion what army establishments there are in the province of Newfoundland, where they are situated and what accommodation they have?

Mr. Pearkes: The main army installation in Newfoundland is at St. John's which is the headquarters for the area. For the moment I have forgotten the name of the park in which it is located. I am sure the hon. gentleman can remember. That is the headquarters of the Newfoundland area. The Newfoundland area embraces the whole of the province of Newfoundland and is a subordinate command to the Atlantic command stationed in Halifax.

There are a number of militia units in Newfoundland of which, of course, the Royal Newfoundland Regiment is the historic regiment of the province. It has various companies stationed in the different centres of Newfoundland where they are provided with such accommodation as may be readily available. There are also a few artillery batteries, a field regiment and some engineers in the province. I think that is a general description of the situation.

Mr. Pickersgill: I am interested in a little more than a general description of the accommodation. Can the minister tell me precisely in what places in Newfoundland the army has accommodation and what the general nature of the accommodation is in each of those places?

Mr. Pearkes: I will get that very shortly.

Mr. Nielsen: I rise simply to disagree with the hon. member for Vancouver East when he suggests that the Alaska highway should logically become part of the highway system of British Columbia. We in the Yukon like to think that eventually we will achieve provincial status and we anticipate that at

[Mr. Nielsen.]

that time we will be fully capable of looking after the road ourselves, although that may be many years in the future. Until that time I feel that the responsibility should remain with the federal government as it is now.

Mr. Winch: I thought you were going to join British Columbia.

Mr. Nielsen: Never.

Mr. Winch: Perhaps we ought to join the Yukon.

Mr. Pearson: A few weeks ago the minister favoured the external affairs committee of the other place with his views on some aspects of defence policy. He must have been affected by the serenity that prevails there because I thought that his views were extraordinarily optimistic. I would ask him to comment for our benefit on this statement, found in the *Globe and Mail* of May 29:

—NATO members have a moral responsibility to live up to their commitments unless they are freed by the other members.

We have accepted certain military commitments, certain army commitments as well as air force commitments, to NATO. I wonder whether the minister means by that statement that the only way, in his view, in which we could alter this commitment would be by a decision of the NATO council, because while I am not disputing the validity of that view—if a collective security system is going to work, it has to be collective enough that decisions cannot be normally permitted if they interfere with the collective action which is required—certainly all other members of NATO have not displayed that high standard of collective responsibility and respect for national commitments which the minister suggests in this report should be shown by Canada. I wonder if he would like to comment upon it because it is an important matter in case we wish to modify our commitments under NATO in the future so that we could take on other commitments in the collective interest besides NATO, perhaps on this continent?

Mr. Pearkes: As the Leader of the Opposition well knows, the discussions at the various meetings of the NATO council are carried out in camera and the press is not present. The council of the group of ministers issues a press release at the conclusion of these meetings. I think the best answer I can give him is to quote from the release which was made in April of this year. I am only quoting part of it:

The ministers—

Here, that refers to the ministers of defence of the NATO countries.