

it would be impertinent if I pointed them out. The minister knows what they are. I do not understand why he is not getting on with the job and why this very expensive equipment is still rolling off the assembly lines to be put into storage.

With respect to surface forces, on the east coast we have now lost the two remaining operational ships with a mine-sweeping capability. If someone should decide to place mines in our waters, we would not be capable of removing them. What would happen if mines were placed in such places as the Gulf of St. Lawrence, the entrance to Halifax harbour or some other strategic east coast location?

In keeping with the extraterritorial responsibilities, consideration must be given to construction of a fleet, light in armament but adequate to carry out the policing and investigation roles required by Acts of Parliament in recent months as well as an effective role with regard to our responsibilities under ASW. The DDH-280 must not be changed or cut back. The necessary money must be found for this program in order that Canada may retain credibility in the eyes of our partners, particularly those within NATO.

In retaining this program it would be irresponsible for the government to decide to downgrade the equipment on these ships in order to meet the total overhaul cost. Within three months of awarding the contract for these new DDH-280 ships, it was known that we would not by any stretch of the imagination be on time or within the cost estimates. In spite of that, the replies to the four questions I placed on the order paper were that no changes were indicated in the over-all cost. I hope what we are now faced with is not a fait accompli in terms of government thinking, but it must be close to that with respect to the total cost of the program, half a billion dollars. Canadians would not have objected or reacted strongly if the government had had the courage to indicate that when it embarked on the program two or three years ago.

I wish to deal briefly with Canada's defence role in our north. Much has been said about this in the past 12 to 14 months. There has been a lot of talk about northern capabilities. This has amounted to nothing more than a program of testing the capability of equipment and training people in northern operations. I have contended for some time that the north could best be developed by people over whom we have total and absolute control. My wish is for a program embracing particular skills of the Canadian armed forces working in the north to develop communications systems, airports and communities. This would require thousands of people, including members of the armed forces, their wives and children. There should be orderly development of the north by people over whom we have some control with respect to the ecology and so forth. It is not sufficient to talk in terms of a couple of hundred of people if we want to do anything meaningful. This should be under the control of competent men within our armed forces.

I would now like to spend a moment or two speaking about future development of the metropolitan area, part

*The Address—Mr. Forrestall*

of which I have the privilege to represent. During the 1970's, particularly the early part, the elected people must determine our potential growth and the form it must take. Legislators must not continue to proceed on the basis that industry is good, no matter what its nature or form.

I used to think it would be good to develop the Minus Basin tidal power so that reduction and refractory industries might be attracted to Nova Scotia, all of the pollutant industries. All that seemed to matter at that time was that industry was industry. I have since changed my mind 100 per cent and I make no apologies for it. Perhaps I have been enlightened by all the talk about pollution in recent years. In any event, I have changed my mind. I now believe we have the capability in the metropolitan area of Dartmouth and Halifax. I trust my hon. friend the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield) will pardon me for consistently placing Dartmouth first; while Dartmouth is now an important part of Halifax, as the years go by I believe it will become less important. My feeling is that if economic generators can be found, this centre will produce a city of half a million people in the course of the next 12 or 15 years, based on clean industry. This is important.

● (3:10 p.m.)

We must find in the Atlantic provinces, we are told, an economic centre with a population of at least half a million before we can become self-supporting and say to the rest of the taxpayers of Canada: we no longer need subsidies or special help; we now have a self-sustaining existence. It is not feasible to attempt to develop more than one such centre in the Atlantic area at least in the foreseeable future. Many factors make this true, most of them apparent, but perhaps the most realistic is the rapidity with which technology and people's requirements are changing. We can, as has been suggested, develop an assembly-based industry involving a containerisation program and a full system of distribution. Parts would be brought into the area in containers, fed through an assembly process and then transferred to a distribution centre. This would be one industrial generator, and it would be a clean generator, not one which would pour pollutants into our air and into our waters.

A second generator which has been suggested by a number of well-informed, knowledgeable people would be the development of the downtown sections of both Dartmouth and Halifax. The federal government is in a position to play a large part here. Halifax has long been a financial and administrative centre of the Maritimes, at least, and over the next ten or twelve years, with careful thought and planning, this facet of our development could be expanded in an orderly way which would tend to enhance the quality of our environment rather than pollute it.

A third area of economic generation which I, and others, believe to be economically possible and feasible is one in which, again, the federal government must take the lead. It is the area of research and development programs. We have a sophisticated and closely inter-related research program in eastern Canada today con-