

National Defence Act Amendment

the record because they are quite pertinent. The letter says in part:

The decision regarding piping—

That is the decision not to accredit pipers as musicians.

—and music is just another step in the discarding of old military traditions, and I'll bet my last cent that there's a bigoted English "scrap metal" band type aiding and abetting the whole issue.

The letter continues:

To say that a person who plays an instrument and music which must be committed entirely to memory, literally hundreds of different tunes, some such as the piobaireachd (piob-roc) involving times of 20 to 30 minutes playing, is not the equal of the man who plays a proportion of a musical score propped under his nose, especially on a trombone, bass horn, glockenspiel and the like is beyond the bounds of reason, and must indeed be the thoughts of a professional snob, not a musician.

I concur in what my constituent says. He goes on to ask a very pertinent question. I was at the United Nations with the hon. member for Chicoutimi (Mr. Langlois). As we walked up Broadway we saw the proud pipes of the Black Watch as the pipers marched along and made a great hit. My constituent wants to know this:

I wonder if the D.N.D. must still comply with the musicians union regulations whenever pipers and pipe bands perform, such as was the case in New York and on the Ed Sullivan show recently. They can't have it both ways, surely.

That would probably be a nice question for the order paper, namely whether pipers are musicians. The hon. member for Chicoutimi might say that French Canadians do not like the pipes, and so on. This letter from Pipe Major Ramsay says:

It has been suggested that the French speaking people don't like bagpipe music. To me this is utter nonsense. I have adjudicated in Brittany, France, where no fewer than 40 French pipe bands took part in what can only be described as "tremendous", the sight of thousands of Frenchmen flocking to hear "The Bagpipes".

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. MacEwan: I bring this matter forward just to point out that I have in black and white a commitment by the minister that the kilt will remain a part of the tradition of our forces. But I am wondering how often the forces will be allowed to wear it. Perhaps the minister when replying at a later date will answer this question. It is an interesting matter. It might be something like our second flag in this country: Only when the Queen comes here will they be allowed to wear it. I hope this will not be the case.

[Mr. MacEwan.]

We go back—and this ties in with the militia—to the days of the first world war when battalions such as the 78th and 85th were proud to wear the kilt, and the North Novas in the second world war, of which the hon. member for Colchester-Hants (Mr. Kennedy) was a company commander. We must remember that the militia is a very important part of the reorganization which the minister has put forward.

I have read that the militia will play an active role in the reorganization, and I hope this is true. I belonged to the local unit. Upon being elected to the House of Commons I had to leave it, of course, but I still maintain an interest at the local level. The reports I have received from some of the officers are not good. I hope there will be an active participation by the militia in the new reorganization, because they are most important for the defence of this country. I fear, however, that with a unified force this will not be the case.

May I refer specifically to the matter of defence establishments in the maritimes, and particularly in the province of Nova Scotia. I refer to those which are most important—Greenwood, Cornwallis, Shearwater, and so on. These bases pour millions of dollars into our economy, as was pointed out by the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Forrestall). Not only that, but in my submission they are needed in order that we may provide for the adequate defence of our country and meet our commitments to NATO.

I recall that on coming into this house I and other hon. members called for the decentralization of industry in this country. These defence bases are among the most important industries we have. Our shipyards of course are assisted, although since the present government came into office the shipyard in my area has had hardly any naval refits because the ships just are not there. It is my hope that the minister will take a very close look at these defence establishments and will realize, if he means what was pointed out by the hon. member for Victoria, B.C. (Mr. Groos), namely that the good of this country must come first, that these defence establishments are most necessary for the first two parts of our national defence policy, that is, the defence of Canada and our commitments to NATO and other organizations.

Many very pertinent questions have been asked by hon. members: Is Canada going to rely for its defence in the future on alliances such as NATO and NORAD? If so, what type of military contribution is Canada going to make to these alliances? What are the specific