

*National Defence Act Amendment*

visit I had to our brigade in NATO and talking to a number of friends, some of whom had been servicemen in world war II and old comrades. It was a very sad picture that we received attesting to the depletion of materiel. We did not have adequate guns, we did not have adequate gun tractors or recce equipment. It was entirely inadequate. One could refer to every branch of the services and find that we had failed to keep up with our materiel requirements. I am speaking off the top of my head, but I believe for a while we were spending only about 17 per cent of the defence budget for equipment. While our total defence costs remained constant we were in fact disarming.

During this period administration costs tended to climb, costs for personnel were very much larger; so there was the piling one on top of another of administration staffs. Finally we were so overloaded with overhead costs that we were becoming an army that could scarcely have fought any decisive action anywhere. Perhaps we were fulfilling a useful role as a diplomatic force, and I do not minimize the importance of this. Our attempts to meet our NATO commitment must always be regarded partially in this light. But if our presence in Europe is important or is to be regarded seriously anywhere, we must equip a force in such a way that it can in actual fact perform its task effectively.

I should like to refer, if I may, to the conclusions of people who are not in the public service at this time, either here or elsewhere, but who stand out as giants I think in the field of military science. I feel that many of these people have in their own way and as a result of their experience, some of them in world war I, world war II and Korea, come to the certain conclusion that for optimum military efficiency unification is necessary.

May I call it seven o'clock, Mr. Speaker?

**Mr. Hellyer:** Mr. Speaker, it was suggested that we rise from seven o'clock to eight o'clock to permit hon. members to have dinner. If this is unanimously agreed, it might be so ordered.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is it agreed?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

[Mr. Matheson.]

• (7:00 p.m.)

**PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT  
MOTION**

**SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE  
DEBATED**

**Mr. Speaker:** It is my duty pursuant to standing order 39A, to inform the house that the questions to be raised at ten o'clock this day are as follows: The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles), unemployment insurance—request for increase in maximum benefits; the hon. member for Lac-Saint-Jean (Mr. Simard), bankruptcies—consequences of bankruptcy of Prudential Finance Corporation and subsidiaries; the hon. member for Prince Edward-Lennox (Mr. Alkenbrack), Canadian National Railways— inquiry as to remuneration for fire damage.

**SITTING SUSPENDED**

**SITTING RESUMED**

The house resumed at 8 p.m.

**NATIONAL DEFENCE ACT AMENDMENT  
AMALGAMATION OF NAVY, ARMY AND AIR  
FORCE**

The house resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Hellyer for the second reading of Bill No. C-243, to amend the National Defence Act and other acts in consequence thereof.

**Mr. Matheson:** Mr. Speaker, just before the dinner recess I presumed to suggest that what the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Hellyer) has done for Canada's defence policy is to implement the recommendations of some of the most prophetic and knowledgeable people in the military field known to our times. May I refer to an article which appeared in the Canadian Army Staff College Journal, period 1959 to 1961, written by J. G. Forth of the Royal Canadian Engineers under the title, "Unification, when, how, why?". The author of that article concluded that the existence of three or more separate services in modern national defence forces is an illogical relic of the past perpetuated by inflexible thinking, vested interests and individual service fear of extinction. He said that a clear distinction of roles for each service is no longer possible; that as time passes this overlapping of function continues to increase with resulting waste in research and development programs,