

Supply—National Defence

are being placed, what kind of plane we are getting. It is an aircraft which is not now being bought by the United States and is one in which defects have occurred.

This reminds me, Mr. Chairman, very much of the time I had the privilege of being on an exercise with the Canadian Navy off Bermuda. Three destroyers were in line. There was a simulated attack by one aircraft and half of the guns of the three destroyers would not or could not fire.

Mr. Churchill: When was that, a year ago?

Mr. Winch: Just over a year ago. We are entitled to know whether this state of affairs has been corrected. If there had been more than one aircraft in that simulated attack all of our Canadian destroyers would have gone to the bottom because half of the guns could not or would not fire.

These are the sort of matters that the minister should be dealing with instead of generalities. We should like to help. But we cannot help when all we get from the minister and the government is camouflage, not facts, figures or explanations.

I notice that my time is running short but I do want to deal with one other matter which I know is of concern. I refer to morale. Morale is of the utmost importance. If there has been a lowering of morale among the Canadian armed forces in the last 18 months or two years, then I say, having spoken to personnel in the forces, that it is not because of the plan for integration. It is my belief that, although there may have been some questions arise from the original statement, today there is not only an acceptance but an endorsement of the policy of integration. If morale has fallen it is because the minister and his department do not back up their statements. Last night the minister said that our Canadian armed forces are a professional group, and that is why they are of such high quality and have such high standards. I agree 100 per cent with that.

● (1:10 p.m.)

I remember, sir, that when our defence committee was visiting armed forces bases in Europe we were guests at a U.S. base. At the official luncheon I sat between two top-brass United States officers and they told me how much they admired the Canadian men and how much better Canadian men were than their own. I asked them why they said that and they replied, "Because your men are professionals. They are not conscripted. They

[Mr. Winch.]

are not drafted. They are not waiting to get out in two or three years. It is their life and their profession. Therefore they have a different attitude and a different morale." I agree with that.

Does the minister follow through with the suggestion that these men are professionals, that service is a career and that they should be treated on that basis? The answer is no, Mr. Chairman. Last fall, when I as one of half a dozen attended a naval exercise off Bermuda, I drew as my lot the captain's suite on the *Bonaventure* as my place to stay. That was quite a week. However, I did not just stay in the captain's suite. I went through the entire ship. I can tell you that there is one hell of a difference between the captain's suite and the quarters of the other 1,000 men, many of whom work and sleep in a temperature of over 100 degrees. I understand that the *Bonaventure* is going in for a refit this year. I hope that we are doing something about the accommodation of the O.R.'s, the other ranks, because they are the backbone of every service.

I hope the minister is noting that they are professionals. We spend two, three or four years training technicians. Why do you not give them the remuneration they deserve as they progress and achieve experience? Any apprentice in the construction industry starts at 60 per cent of the journeyman's wage and gets an increase every year or every six months. Why not do that with the men of the armed forces?

On that trip some officers said to me, "We are not too badly treated but give some consideration to the men in the navy. Many are married. They have to leave home and, whether you like it or not, when the male member of the family is away other work and other expenses fall on the wife." They said to me, "Why not give these men an away from the shore allowance, because we travel the world? We are the ambassadors of Canada." The officers I spoke to said, "Are we to be allowed anything for being ambassadors of Canada? Unless we are cheapskates we have to return receptions and so on."

The answer is, "No, you are not allowed anything". Why do you not do something—

Mr. Hellyer: May I ask the hon. gentleman a question?

Mr. Winch: It takes years to train our technicians, but they only have to sign on for a period of service of three, four or five years. The minister will remember that I