

Supply—National Defence

Practical application from the data provided by Alouette I, which has been analysed in combination with data obtained from sister satellites, may involve improved techniques for long-distance communications resulting from mitigation of interruptions caused to northern radio by solar storms and other phenomena.

● (9:40 p.m.)

The Defence Research Board's industrial research assistance program introduced late in 1961, to encourage industry in Canada to establish additional research facilities, has proven to be a most successful activity. Costs of projects under this program are shared by the Defence Research Board and industry. The joint commitment at present amounts to about \$41,700,000 of which D.R.B. has committed more than \$21 million, with \$10,500,000 spent to date.

Of 145 projects covered by this program, 113 are active at the present time and are being conducted by 56 Canadian industries in a variety of fields—electronics, aviation, mechanical engineering, physics, metallurgy studies and others. A number of companies attribute a considerable increase in their business volume to the direct and indirect results of this industrial research assistance program.

As I stated at the outset, the strength of the Canadian armed forces is in the dedication, training and professionalism of its officers and men. Just as no force, no matter how well trained, can operate effectively without good equipment, similarly no amount of modern equipment, by itself, can be effective without persons skilled and trained in its use.

We have in the past enjoyed, and still enjoy, a tremendously proud and effective force, unsurpassed anywhere in the world. We fully recognize that if we are to maintain this effectiveness in the future, we must continue to provide the training, remuneration and career opportunities to attract the high calibre of person required for our demanding tasks.

Whereas it is true that re-organization of any kind raises questions in respect to the effects that it may have on individuals, the important problems relating to individuals in the armed forces today are not those resulting from integration, they are the same real problems affecting men and women in all walks of life, that is, pay, allowances, housing, career opportunities, etc. I might add that perhaps there are many Canadians who do not fully appreciate just how good the

Canadian armed forces really are, and what a tremendous job they do as ambassadors for Canada as they pursue their task of contributing to the deterrence of war and helping to preserve world order.

Hon. members who have visited our armed forces units and establishments overseas, in Canada, and at sea, and who have been impressed by the superb quality and proficiency of the men and women of the forces, would be performing a most useful service if, at every opportunity, they informed their constituents and Canadians generally of the accomplishments of those who wear our country's uniform.

In respect to pay and allowances, a number of questions have been raised and these are all under active study at the present time. As I indicated in the House of Commons the other day, we fully realize that we have to compete for manpower in a booming economy, and measures will be taken—measures designed to do justice to the men and women of the armed forces and to attract new recruits to the organization.

The number of recruits required in the next four or five years will be considerably greater than has been the case for some time, simply due to the great numbers of servicemen who saw experience in world war II and who are now reaching retirement age. This problem, combined with the increased competition in the labour market, will make our task difficult. We will appreciate the co-operation of all hon. gentlemen in helping us to meet our goals.

Finally, I would like to say a word of appreciation to those hon. gentlemen who served on the special committee on defence. This committee was an experiment. It was the first time in Canada that members of the house have had the opportunity of discussing in committee, in an orderly fashion, the current expenditures and future plans of the Department of National Defence. I felt from the outset that the committee could fill a very important function and that it would be a good vehicle for making available to hon. members of this house and to the Canadian public, much more information on defence matters than had previously been available from Canadian sources.

I believe the committee was a most useful forum for discussion and that it proved the advisability of this kind of organization as a recognized part of our parliamentary system.