

STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
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No. 51/27 CANADA'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE STRENGTH OF THE
FREE WORLD

An address by the Minister of Defence Production, Mr. C.D. Howe delivered to the Semi-Annual National Meeting of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, at Toronto on June 13, 1951.

... Because of the presence of such a distinguished group of American citizens I intend to speak tonight about some aspects of the Canadian scene in which I believe our friends from south of the border have a particular interest at the present time. As a matter of fact, I thought that my address might take the form of a "quiz" in which I would attempt to answer some of the questions that Americans frequently ask about Canada.

Obviously, of course, I had to make a selection. For there are many questions you might ask about which I have no special knowledge. And, to be perfectly frank, there are certain points about developments in Canada that I feel are important which can only be discussed if I ask myself the right questions!

Well, here are the questions:

What part is Canada playing in the Korean war?

What is Canada doing to defend herself and the northern part of North America?

To what extent is Canada co-operating with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization?

How big is the Canadian defence effort?

What is the Canadian attitude to compulsory military service?

Why aren't there as many controls in Canada as in the United States?

Let me then begin with the first question: What part is Canada playing in the Korean war?

When the United Nations sent out a call for free nations to send armed forces to stop aggression in Korea, Canada immediately sent three destroyers to Korea and sent a squadron of heavy transport planes to operate between America and Korea.

Canada then acted without delay to mobilize and place at the disposal of the United Nations, a brigade of ten thousand combat troops. Recruiting began on August 9, 1950, and the required strength was quickly reached. On February 19th of this year one battalion of the famous Princess Patricia's Canadian