

*National Defence Act Amendment*

a long time, I think that the right hon. Prime Minister of Canada (Mr. Pearson), who is the leader of the nation, will have to come and tell the house what he thinks of this bill on the unification of our armed forces—if the minister stubbornly refuses to give us the necessary information.

I strongly urge the Prime Minister to clear up any misunderstanding within his cabinet with regard to the unification of our armed forces—he will have to tell the Canadian people what is meant according to him in this bill and if this bill, as claimed by the minister, will really be in the interest of all Canadians.

[English]

**Mr. Leboe:** Mr. Chairman, I rise at this time to say that I believe there is unanimous consent to suspend the sitting until eight o'clock for a dinner hour. Since there are only a few minutes left before six I suggest we might rise now so as not to interrupt the next speaker.

**The Chairman:** Order. I should point out to the committee that there is already an order of the house before the committee to suspend its sitting from seven till eight. If it is the wish of the committee to do otherwise, this wish would have to be expressed with the Speaker in the chair.

**Mr. Leboe:** I think there is unanimous consent in the committee to rise at this time.

Progress reported.

**Mr. Hellyer:** I move that this house adjourn until eight o'clock, to resume its business at that time.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Should the house wish to change the order of Thursday, April 6, unanimous consent will be required. Does the house give unanimous consent to suspending the sitting from now until eight o'clock?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Before adjourning I shall announce the proceedings on tonight's adjournment motion.

**PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT  
MOTION**

**SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE  
DEBATED**

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** It is my duty, pursuant to provisional standing order 39A, to inform the house that the questions to be raised at the time of adjournment tonight are as follows: The hon. member for Springfield

[Mr. Asselin (Charlevoix).]

(Mr. Schreyer), Agriculture—inquiry as to basis for fluid milk subsidy; the hon. member for Villeneuve (Mr. Caouette), Agriculture—inquiry as to new dairy policy; the hon. member for Lotbinière (Mr. Choquette), Transport—inquiry as to grade crossings policy.

Does the house agree to resume the business interrupted a few moments ago?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**NATIONAL DEFENCE ACT AMENDMENT**

**AMALGAMATION OF NAVY, ARMY AND  
AIR FORCE**

The house resumed consideration in committee of Bill No. C-243, to amend the National Defence Act and other acts in consequence thereof—Mr. Hellyer—Mr. Batten in the chair.

**The Chairman:** Pursuant to the agreement just reached the sitting of the committee is suspended until eight o'clock.

SITTING SUSPENDED

SITTING RESUMED

**The Chairman:** When the committee rose at six o'clock clause 2 was being considered.

**Mr. Bower:** Mr. Chairman, I have had every intention of speaking on this most important piece of legislation since the moment of its introduction because on the validity of its proposals our very existence as a country may depend, and because it will govern the way that expenditures of a very large segment of our national budget are to be made. We must be right in the legislative road that we take on this matter.

Sir, although not a member of the standing committee on defence, I have, however, read the testimony of the witnesses who appeared before that body, and I have followed the speeches on Bill C-243 in the house and in *Hansard*, through its various stages to the present. I can assure you right away, Mr. Chairman, that I do not propose to participate now on the basis of an analysis of the testimony of the expert military witnesses before the standing committee on defence which, as might be expected, was conflicting, although on balance in my opinion the concept of unification was then definitely negated. Rather, it is what has not been said that disturbs me greatest—this along with what