

National Security Measures

Undoubtedly there are people who believe that the phrase "free world" is simply another cliché used by the western military alliance and its supporters, of whom I am one, to play on the emotional sympathies of people to oppose what they like to term American imperialism. Let me merely say to those people that while our western societies are not without their defects, our citizens are free to leave their countries when they wish to do so, unlike Jews in the Soviet Union, the people of the Ukraine, the Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians.

We do not have any Berlin walls and we have not shot people whose only wish was to leave their country. However unpleasant these harsh realities may be to the soft ears of our diplomats, who seem to wish us to form alliances or enter into understandings with countries whose present governments are among the most repressive in the world, the fact is that the world has not yet reached the state where sheep are safe from wolves.

Does anyone seriously believe that the Communists have fundamentally altered their belief in the necessity for a communist-governed world? It is all very well to speak of the attractions of disarmament, particularly when we all agree that there are great, urgent economic and social problems here in Canada and abroad which require vast additional sums of money, which money in the view of some people should be coming from the funds which are now expended for defence purposes, but I would hope that the lesson given the world in the 1930s would still remain obvious. It is not the weak who preserve peace. On the contrary, given the world situation and the appetites of certain nations, the weak unwittingly invite aggression.

The government has all but destroyed the attractiveness of a military career in the Canadian armed services. This retrograde situation began with the unification of the armed services, the destruction of old and glorious regiments and the declining percentage of our national budget which has been allocated for defence purposes in recent years. Again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to quote from an editorial in the *Winnipeg Free Press* of May 7, 1971, entitled "Disappearing defences":

We are a wealthy middle power, but we pretend we are in the clan of the underdeveloped nations, another Tanzania on the North American continent. Nobody takes this pretence very seriously, probably not even our government that plays at running—though not very fast—with the third world hares while at the same time hunting, though without much conviction, with the superpower hounds. We have a definite task, and it is sheer folly to abandon it at a time when the western Mediterranean is being turned into a Red Lake, when the eastern Mediterranean is bristling with Soviet air power, a sophisticated array that is aimed at neutralizing the sixth fleet rather than protecting Egypt against Israel, and when the Berlin problem remains far from settled.

In 1951, Canada allocated 27 per cent of its budget to defence expenditures. In 1971, it allocated 14.6 per cent of its budget to the same purpose. Can anyone seriously argue that the world situation has altered so clearly in the interests of long-term peace that such a reduction is justified? Canada, under its present administration, is in the awkward and contradictory position of relying upon the United States for its defence in the event of any

major external threat, while at the same time attempting to use every opportunity to criticize American military preparedness, choosing to ignore the fact that our sovereignty over this, the second largest country in the world, is not assured by our own pitiful military might but by that of our ally to the south, whom so many pseudo Liberals in this country wish to use as a whipping-boy for our national deficiencies as well as for most of the world's economic and social problems.

I believe that the government must reverse its erroneous path and make it abundantly clear to everyone, including our closest allies, that we are prepared to resume a befitting role in our military commitments, and that the government is prepared to begin immediately by restructuring and refitting our armed services so that once again Canadians will seek to serve in our military units and our allies will again take seriously our military commitments. With the Soviet Union's increasing maritime power and its intrusion for military purposes into international waters not previously used by it for such purposes, we ought surely to be developing our capacities, particularly our anti-submarine search and surveillance effectiveness.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I also urge that the government expand the armed services so that it would be possible to maintain a significant number of Canadian troops in the far north, both to establish quite clearly our sovereignty in that area and to discourage any question as to that sovereignty, as well as to give our troops lengthy and actual experience in operating under Arctic conditions. I urge those who believe that we can remain both free and militarily unprepared to examine at once, even in recent history, what has happened to countries which have attempted this fallacy.

Mr. Judd Buchanan (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, the motion makes reference to the "role of our armed forces at home—with particular reference to our north." I would like to discuss some of the ways in which the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and the Department of National Defence are working together in our north.

As hon. members know, the Department of National Defence has had a presence in the north for some time, and its experience has been put to use in a number of ways. The special problems of communications in the north are being researched at a \$325,000 operations' building located four miles north of Inuvik. I think some of us in the south are very prone to take for granted the communications systems which we have readily available to us, but one has only to spend a limited amount of time in some of the more remote settlements of the north to realize how fundamental and essential proper communications are to their existence.

Other more mundane but vital developments have taken place in clothing and equipment for the Arctic. The Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and the Department of National Defence are co-operating to build airstrips in the north. The aim is to promote communication to the various outposts for year-round administration and health services. To allow the landing

[Mr. Ritchie.]