

National Defence Act Amendment

Department of External Affairs, which considers itself somewhat superior, might come up with a suitable name for that special force. If such a force were set aside then you would not have to draw on Canadian battalions and reduce their strength for other purposes; you would not have to draw on fighter aircraft and fighter pilots from the air force. You would have people whose definite role for a period of time would be a United Nations peace keeping role, something like a constabulary. I do not like that term because I think it is a little out-dated. Neither would I like to call it a police force—I don't like the word police. But we could call it something else. We could call it the Canadian Peace Keeping Force, which gives four initials. I present this suggestion to the minister with my compliments and I think he should do something about it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. I regret to interrupt the hon. member but I must advise him that the time allotted to him has expired.

Mr. J. Chester MacRae (York-Sunbury): Mr. Speaker, I wish to enter this debate on the unification bill, first because of a life-long interest in the military, and more especially the army, an interest which goes back many years to a high school cadet corps, and second, because in my constituency there is situated what is considered to be one of the finest military establishments not only in this country but in the entire world. I refer of course to Camp Gagetown, which is now part of the new mobile command.

The third reason I enter this debate is, the same for me as for all other Canadians, that we believe our way of life is the right way, and we are prepared if necessary to fight in its defence should the need again arise, even to the extent of engaging in a full scale war. But, Mr. Speaker, if I may interject a personal note, having served in world war II as a front-line soldier I pray that never again will we have another world war, because man now possesses the nuclear capability of destroying our civilization as we know it.

Before criticizing this legislation and asking the minister some questions, I would like to thank both him and the associate minister for the many courtesies they have extended to me on the problems that I have taken to them over the past months, as a matter of fact, over the past three years. Since the bulk of the matters that I have raised have dealt with

personnel, with the problems of serving soldiers and their dependants, my correspondence for the most part has been with the associate minister and I would like to take this opportunity to thank him especially for his assistance. My letters have always been answered promptly and, where possible, the answer that I sought for my constituent was a favourable one. I realize that you cannot win them all, but I feel that the minister has been very helpful. I am very grateful for that assistance.

● (8:40 p.m.)

I should like to comment on a decision made this past week wherein the minister announced that henceforth pipers are to be classed as musicians. The minister may recall that some few months or so ago I wrote to him on two or three occasions in this connection. I love the pipes, as I think most persons of Scottish ancestry do. The pipes and drums of the Royal Highlanders of Canada, the Black Watch regiment which is now stationed in Camp Gagetown, have become known all over North America and even beyond. Only recently they were on one of the great national television shows of the United States. To classify these pipers as musicians is the only right and fair thing to do. I am surprised that this was not always the case.

There are many matters which I should like to raise dealing with specific cases of men in the services, but I decided I would wait until the minister's estimates are before us. They concern such matters as elected representation in the town of Oromocto. I have some suggestions for the minister in this regard which I think he would welcome. I also have some constructive suggestions, I believe, about the soldier vote, about pension service of veterans serving in the regular forces and other matters of that nature. Even though on second reading the debate can be rather free-wheeling, these matters I believe can wait until another time.

There is, however, one matter which I think is within the purview of this debate. I should like to commend the government about this too; that is, the re-engagement bonus which was instituted some time ago. This was a very important issue in my area where we have a very large concentration of troops. In the election campaign which was held in the fall of 1965 I stressed that I was very much in favour of this. I raised the matter with the ministry and I am very pleased to see that this was done. I am sure it is a measure