

Supply—National Defence

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE

Canadian army—

219. Operation and maintenance, \$357,913,000.

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Chairman, I should like to ask the minister whether in the organization of the army there is any provision made or any expenditures of any kind allocated for a possible expeditionary force?

Mr. Pearkes: No, Mr. Chairman, there is no special allocation of funds for what one might call an expeditionary force in the usual meaning of that term. We do, I think, as the Leader of the Opposition knows, maintain one battalion in a higher state of readiness than others so that it might be able to meet any emergency which might develop.

Mr. Pearson: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I know that. I was wondering whether there was any provision made, and I am not suggesting that there should be; I think it would be a waste of money to provide for a division or a corps organization overseas.

Mr. Pearkes: None at all. We do not picture that as being a likely type of employment of the Canadian armed forces.

Mr. Hellyer: With reference to the militia, I wonder whether the minister can tell us what relation the changes proposed this year have to the Kennedy report, and whether he still maintains the opinion which he held a couple of years ago with respect to the Kennedy report and its implementation?

Mr. Pearkes: Which Kennedy report is the hon. member referring to?

Mr. Pickersgill: General Howard Kennedy.

Mr. Pearkes: The one which dealt with the re-organization of the militia three or four years ago? That has been reviewed and some of the recommendations have been implemented. As to others, changed conditions have altered the requirements which were then advanced in the report.

Mr. Nielsen: May I ask the minister one or two questions concerning the northwest highway system? First, it is my understanding that responsibility for the highway now rests with the Department of National Defence through international agreement with the United States. I am wondering whether, if and when the highway is transferred to British Columbia upon completion of the paving, the transfer will be subject to the terms of the agreement with the United States.

The second question concerns my fear that once the road becomes the property of British Columbia it may be that it will become subject also to any tolls and taxes which may be levied on other provincial roads. This, of course, is very important to those engaged

in mining operations in the Yukon, particularly marginal operations, and should such tolls be imposed it may very well mean the difference between a marginal mine coming into production or closing down.

The third question I wish to ask the minister concerns continuing responsibility for the maintenance and operation of the northwest highway system. Is it the intention of the government to leave this responsibility with the Department of National Defence rather than transferring it to any other government department or agency?

The fourth question concerns the installations of the Department of National Defence in the city of Whitehorse. As the minister is fully aware, there is a rapidly growing problem in the city in finding adequate space for enlarging residential and commercial construction. A large part of the city of Whitehorse is, of course, taken up by national defence installations and the sooner the army finds an alternative acceptable to themselves the sooner the city of Whitehorse will have this land available which is very necessary to orderly expansion and proper town planning. Can the minister indicate what the future plans of the department are in this connection?

Mr. Pearkes: In answer to the first question, the international agreement will be maintained. Consideration will be given to the hon. gentleman's remarks regarding tolls and when the agreement is drawn up with the British Columbia government that matter will receive consideration. It is the intention of the government at least for the present to leave the administration of the highway system in the hands of the Department of National Defence. With regard to the installations at Whitehorse, a review is now taking place with respect to a reorganization of the administration and of the buildings which are required in order to meet modern conditions, which have changed so much in the last few years. I hope that it will be possible within the next few months to complete the reorganization of the administration of this system and to firm up plans for the accommodation which is required.

Mr. Nielsen: I thank the minister for his answers to my questions. May I conclude by saying that I would not want to leave the impression that the residents of Whitehorse do not wish to continue to see the army there. We are very grateful for the addition they have made to the economy of Whitehorse. I am sure there is alternative available land close by which would be