

up what I want to say, but you can correct me, Mr. Chairman, if I am wrong, and I shall be glad to wait.

Although I do not altogether agree with what the hon. member for Skeena has implied in his attitude toward the air force, I do agree with him in what he said about the men who are unwilling to volunteer for either the interim or the permanent force, that they should be either employed or discharged.

I wish to place one or two observations on record. On November 2 I drew the attention of the committee to the report of General Marshall of the United States, and mentioned at that time that his report must have been the product of the United States military general staff. Since November 2 another report has been published in the United States. It is the report of a civilian bombing survey committee. This committee was established by President Roosevelt and presided over by Mr. Franklin D. D'Olier. All I want to do here is to make a comparison, for what it may be worth, for the use of this committee, between the reports of the committee of the United States general staff and the reports of a civilian committee on the air force. I submit that this applies to us here in every way as much as it does to the United States air force.

The military command from which General Marshall drew the knowledge for his report worked from the theory, strategy, and tactics of warfare and from the experience of the past. This civilian committee went into Europe, went among the peoples and factories there and the government bodies and consulted all the records. It judged the impact of warfare from the bottom up while the air force judged it from the top down. Here are its conclusions: that in aerial combat the victory of the allies was complete; that the air force, combined with naval power, brought an end to the enemy's greatest naval threat, the U-boats; that the air force, combined with the ground forces, turned the tide overwhelmingly in favour of our armies; that the invasion of Europe was made possible by the superiority of our air power. This is the final conclusion, that the imprint that our allied air forces left on the German people will be lasting.

I am calling the attention of the committee to these facts and suggesting that we are discussing the estimates for the future. Before concluding, I should like to say that the United Kingdom during the war devoted as much as fifty per cent of its productive effort to the air force, and will undoubtedly devote forty to fifty per cent of its peace time defence effort to the air force. The United

States devoted thirty-five per cent of its productive effort, and we are now passing estimates of approximately thirty per cent of our defence appropriations for the air force. Although this is my service, I do not think I am doing my country or this committee any disservice by pointing out that this is about the lowest we can with security ever allow our estimates to go in percentage, because both General Marshall's report, going even so far back as George Washington, and now this civilian committee in the United States, agree on one thing, namely, that the best way to win a war is to prevent it from occurring. And the best way to prevent war is to support a strong, alert and able defence force.

Item agreed to.

Progress reported.

PRIVILEGE—Mr. COLDWELL

Mr. M. J. COLDWELL (Rosetown-Biggart): I understand, Mr. Speaker, that we are going into committee of supply on civil estimates, but just before we do so may I raise a matter which affects the privileges of the house. A notice has been sent round this evening to at least the leaders and the whips of the various groups, which reads:

Cards will be available at the whips' offices for the members of the house who desire to bring their wives and daughters to the House of Commons on the occasion of Mr. Attlee's address.

Each member will be entitled to bring his wife and one daughter, who will be placed in the members' gallery and the ladies' gallery.

The doors will be open for them at 2.30 o'clock. The general public will only be admitted after the wives of senators and members will have been seated.

It has also been intimated that applications should be made before eleven o'clock tomorrow. Many members are in the city, without wife or daughter, and I believe that many hon. gentlemen would like to invite a male friend or a lady friend as the case may be, because there are some bachelors in the house. I suggest, therefore, that further consideration be given this matter, so that tickets may be allotted to members to be given to whomsoever they will. I bring this matter to the attention of the leader of the government in order that it may be discussed with the Speaker. It is one that concerns the house, and it ought not to be decided by officials of the house without consultation at least with the members.

Hon. IAN A. MACKENZIE (Minister of Veterans Affairs): I anticipated the observations my hon. friend has just made, and I intended, when making the announcement as to the business of the house at eleven o'clock, to say that each member will be entitled to