

*The Address—Mr. Forrestall*

and Resources (Mr. Greene). May I pay a tribute not only to our scientists but as well, and particularly, to the captain and the crew of the ship *Hudson* which has just completed a circumnavigation of the Americas. I had the privilege, and I personally thank the minister for this, of standing with one or two other Canadians at a dockside in South America and watching that ship come out of the fog. I could not help feeling very, very proud of being a Canadian and, as that day and ensuing days wore on, a very great pride in the work that the scientists on that ship had been carrying on so successfully. I was struck by the tremendous, very sincere and deep respect that the scientists of the department on board the *Hudson*, as well as of those who came from scientific communities in South America had for the skill and dedication of the captain and the crew. May I express to the minister my congratulations upon such a voyage being undertaken. I look forward as the months and years go by to a continuing evaluation of the information collected on this particular trip.

The grievous problems that confront Canada are very clear in the minds of those in the various segments of our country that are particularly affected. I am speaking in a broad sense. I doubt whether any of those engaged in the various sectors of our economic and national life are unaware of the depth of the problems facing them. They must be very disappointed, as I am and as I am sure thousands of other Canadians are, that the government apparently has not recognized the depth of those problems and given them any sort of priority.

May I now direct a few remarks to the area of national defence? If there is one area within the government that has been neglected, certainly for a number of years, it is the area of the Department of National Defence and the Canadian Armed Forces. I should like to touch briefly on what I consider to be an urgent necessity, partly because of the events of the last two weeks, but more importantly, because of the events of the last three years. I am speaking of the urgency of increasing the budget for defence spending. I am sure that my purpose in making this appeal is obvious. I need only refer to the current review under way with respect to our four new destroyer escorts, the DDH 280's. It is important, in order that we may maintain our capabilities, for the defence budget to be increased in respect of a general re-equipment program and in respect of maintaining the strength of the Canadian Armed Forces at levels which are adequate to meet the commitments and obligations that we, as a nation, have incurred. From time to time we pay lip service to those commitments.

I cannot help wondering, Mr. Speaker, how the Canadian Armed Forces are to carry out those new responsibilities we have assigned to them, such as maintaining our sovereignty in the north and policing legislation introduced in recent days by the Minister of Transport (Mr. Jamieson) with respect to pollution, as well as enforcing other Arctic pollution measures, with the present equipment we have. What is more damnable, there seems to be no apparent effort to design and construct equipment that is adequate if the armed forces are to police the laws and regulations now in effect in Canada. I hasten to

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say that those are enlightened laws; yet, if they are to be effective, we must be able to police and enforce them. We must, if we can—and I think this should happen during the present fiscal year—increase the national defence budget; we must increase it substantially if we want to maintain our credibility in the eyes of our partners, in the eyes of our neighbours to the south and in the eyes of our NATO allies. We must replace the *Argus*. I think the *Argus* will need to be maintained in service for considerably longer than the government is apparently willing to admit at this juncture. I think the elimination of the *Argus*, which is used in part in its present well known role and in part for the extended surveillance of the north, should not in any way delay or halt our moving ahead with a program to replace that aircraft with others such as the *Nimrod* or *Orion*.

There are experts who claim these are the best aircraft available for the job. It seems to me that if we equip our forces with this new generation of weapons, there is every reason to suppose, on the basis of that equipment, that Canada for the next ten or 12 years will have the finest maritime patrol aircraft in the world. We must, as I said a moment ago, ease restraints with respect to the national defence budget so that we can maintain a credible and balanced equipment program and a force structured to meet the external and domestic commitments that we have already undertaken and from which, hopefully, we shall not retreat. The failure to do this now is capable of interpretation by our friends and allies outside this country, only that we are further retreating into a position of isolation with respect to Europe and with respect to continental defence.

• (3:00 p.m.)

I have another pet subject to which I think we should be giving serious consideration, unless there was some understanding in connection with the report of the Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence, which report is based on the study by the subcommittee on Maritime defence. I wish to emphasize that it is now time for Canada to study a true submersible capability. The committee recommended that we do not acquire nuclear powered submarines at this time solely on the basis of cost. There is every indication that it is possible for us to acquire such a capability without becoming involved in the tremendous cost of new construction. I wish to be very emphatic in stating that the true submersible, the nuclear powered submarine, remains the only piece of equipment available that can operate 12 months of the year in our northern latitudes.

There are many reasons why Canada should have this equipment, such as the commercial application, the scientific application and the presence within our Department of National Defence and other government circles of knowledge of what is happening in our north. The most important reason is that it is the only piece of equipment that is capable of year round operation.

It must be a damnable burden for the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Macdonald) to carry the responsibility of the CF-5 program. I have sympathy for the minister. There are very obvious roles for the CF-5 and