

Supply—National Defence

our contribution has been marginal throughout most of the past and, citing McNamara's testimony, is likely to become less significant in future, as the threat of bomber attack recedes and as anti-ballistic missile defences are perfected. Our contribution to Western European defence is largely symbolic—

I have heard similar statements made by persons well acquainted with military affairs in Europe.

—and its rationale must be provided by a series of arguments which can hardly be tested and never be proven. The use to which we might put our military establishment in maintaining order along the peripheries is severely restricted both by our own internal inhibitions and by developments in the environment of interposition over which we have no control.

Then he goes on to say:

My own feeling is that we have been paying too much for it—much too much. I would think that a really ruthless Minister of National Defence could justify a military establishment for Canada costing no more than about one third of its present annual upkeep—about \$500 million—without worrying that his countrymen would fall prey to aggressors as a result.

Then he goes on to develop his argument.

So that there is no misunderstanding as to what is our policy in this respect, I wish to quote what it is. The minister will understand that I am quoting the New Democratic party policy with respect to defence. I am going to refer to the program which was adopted at our August 4, 1961 convention, at the Regina convention in August 1963, and of course carried on to our last convention. This is what our program says:

NATO has played its part in the maintenance of west European security. However, it has concentrated on a military role and has failed to adapt its policies to the growing importance of the economic and social front in the present world struggle. The New Democratic party believes that we should seek a reappraisal and change of NATO's policies and objectives.

The New Democratic party believes that the extension of nuclear weapons to any further states and alliances threatens disaster to the world. It therefore opposes Canada's troops being supplied with such weapons at home or abroad. At present, except for those nations which have independently developed atomic capacity, neither NATO itself nor its members individually possess or control nuclear warheads. Should they do so, Canada, must make it clear that it cannot remain in the alliance. To relieve tensions, Canada should press for a demilitarized zone in central Europe and for the simultaneous disbandment of the Warsaw and NATO pacts.

That is the position of this party with respect to our continued support of NATO. I presume the minister will agree that NATO is a nuclear power or component part. I see the minister nods his head.

[Mr. Herridge.]

Mr. Hellyer: It is a nuclear-armed alliance.

• (5:50 p.m.)

Mr. Herridge: Yes, I think that is a better description. I understand his position in view of these changing developments.

Then we go on with the other questions relating to our policy. We are told that the New Democratic government will make a general and searching reappraisal of Canada's defence role. Much of the money which Canada now allocates to defence could better be spent on providing such conventional troops and civilian personnel as the United Nations may require, and on aiding underdeveloped countries.

We believe in maintaining efficient defence forces in Canada, to provide for the defence of this country. We also think that we can provide troops that should be utilized by the United Nations anywhere in the world, with the transport that should be necessary, and other materiel and equipment that might be required. We also would agree to our naval forces being used in patrol of the seas, off both our coasts.

Then we go on with the question of NORAD. I am quoting from the New Democratic party program, page 51 which reads as follows:

It is questionable whether NORAD ever made any significant contribution to the defence of Canada and in any case it has outlived its usefulness. Furthermore, there is every danger that the Bomarc's will be equipped with nuclear warheads. The NORAD agreements should therefore be terminated.

That is the attitude of the New Democratic party with respect to NORAD. I continue to quote:

The New Democratic party demands an immediate ban on nuclear tests, both to avoid the dangerous effects of fall-out and as a first step toward nuclear disarmament.

Then we go on to deal with it.

We believe that that should be our defence policy. I fully admit that the minister has to give effect to a defence policy which reflects foreign policy, because he knows that we stand for an independent foreign policy for Canada which is western oriented. We believe that we can make a worth-while contribution to the development of peace in the world by providing what we would term the police force necessary to police the world. I think my hon. friend from Brandon-Souris rather objected to the words "police force". We will be very happy if we can refer to the forces of the United Nations being used as police forces anywhere in the world, rather than as armies, navies, and air forces.