

The article continues:

The ships cost the taxpayers several million dollars each and as they now stand are utterly useless for offensive and defensive purposes. They are in fact a deficit, because every day men go to work on them in an attempt to keep complex electronic and mechanical gear in shape.

He pointed out that theoretically these ships could get up steam and sail perhaps within a week or, by raiding training establishments and cancelling leave, the navy could probably muster crews within a month.

He also pointed out that—

—this “hot reserve” concept is largely window dressing because every sailor knows it takes at least two months of solid work to whip a new crew into anything approaching fighting efficiency.

He also stated:

H.M.C.S. *Skeena*, a magnificent ultra-modern destroyer escort with helicopter facilities, lies alongside at H.M.C. Dockyard preparing for a major refit. When she comes out in three or four months she will take on a skeleton crew and join the hidden fleet at *Shearwater*.

This may also be the fate of her sister ship *Annapolis*, which is undergoing refit.

Finally he states, and he was referring to the new uniform of the unified forces:

Take the case of the Jolly Green Jumper, as navy types designate the proposed common uniform proposed by Hellyer.

He then quotes a navy type to whom he was speaking at that time as follows:

The navy can still mount a flashy guard of honour, the officers still have that starched, stiff-upper-lip look, but the ratings observed in the bars and on the streets can only be described as scruffy.

This is so because their uniforms have been allowed to deteriorate because new uniforms are to be issued. He quotes a leading hand with seven years service who looked balefully at the patches and worn spots on his uniform and said:

A couple of years ago I wouldn't have thought of wearing this on the street. But now, what with the Jolly Green Jumper and all, it doesn't seem to matter.

Mr. Hazlitt's article then continues:

A saltier colleague put his feelings in more colourful language: I'll be flipped,” he said, “if I'm going to wear the Jolly Green Flipping Jumper regardless of what Paul Flipping Hellyer flipping well says.”

A bright young officer summed up the majority thinking. He said he agreed that the days of swords, ceremonies and iron clad discipline are over. But he added: “I've spent my entire adult life preparing to take command of a ship. Now it appears there aren't going to be many ships. So I'm shopping for another career.”

The morale of the navy is very low.

National Defence Act Amendment

On December 19 of last year the Associate Minister of National Defence (Mr. Cadieux) answered a question I placed on the order paper. I asked what units of the Royal Canadian Navy are now being declared surplus or will be declared surplus at an early date, and this is the list as set out in that answer:

H.M.C.S. *Granby*
H.M.C.S. *Antigonish*
H.M.C.S. *Beacon Hill*
H.M.C.S. *Jonquière*
H.M.C.S. *New Waterford*
H.M.C.S. *Sussexvale*
H.M.C.S. *New Glasgow*
H.M.C.S. *Swansea*
H.M.C.S. *Stettler*
H.M.C.S. *Ste. Thérèse*

Surely some of these ships could have been retained in order to provide necessary instruction for our junior officers. If this is not provided the navy will be a thing of the past. An old saying of the navy is “The gravy's in the navy”. I think those days are gone forever. Perhaps the “wavy navy” will never wave again.

In his answer the associate minister also said that tenders would be called for helicopter destroyers in March of this year. I hope that will be the case, but I fear it will not. It was my understanding that four of these ships were to be built. It will be many years before they are completed. Once a keel is laid, as hon. members are aware, it takes a great deal of time to construct one of these modern destroyer escorts. Unfortunately our navy will not have ships available for its operations, and when they do they will not have sufficient crew.

● (6:40 p.m.)

Let me turn to another matter. I was pleased on Robbie Burns Day to hear the associate minister announce that the minister agreed that pipers should be accredited as musicians. I think that is a proper decision. I have in my possession—I do not intend to read it all—an excellent letter from a constituent of mine which contains a letter from a pipe major who came from Scotland and had a distinguished career. Among other things he was appointed Queen's Piper of Holyrood Palace, Edinburgh. In 1948 he was appointed private piper to the Royal Company of Archers, private piper to the Queen's Bodyguard in Scotland, and so on. I intended making this speech before the change was made in the Department of National Defence but I will still put a few of these matters on