

Supply—National Defence

The plan of program at the present time is that each nation should supply its own logistic support.

Mr. Hellyer: Mr. Chairman, in May, I think it was, I asked a question with reference to the sale by the Department of National Defence of a parcel of land for the purpose of building a shopping centre. The minister replied that it had been sold without tenders being called. The reference may be found in *Hansard* of May 6, 1959. The minister told us that 4.8 acres had been sold for \$8,500. In reply to a later question of mine he informed the house that tenders were not called. The answer further said that the reason for this most unusual way of doing business was that a contract had been let with the purchaser for the construction of a shopping centre according to the specifications set by the Department of National Defence. I wonder whether the minister will explain the details of this transaction, what the specifications for the shopping centre are and the present state of the project?

Mr. Pearkes: The answer that I gave on the occasion that the hon. gentleman referred to was that in September, 1958 the company came forward with a proposal to erect a shopping centre on this particular parcel of land, and that was after many years, or some considerable time, of endeavours to try and get a shopping centre built in this area for the convenience of the personnel there.

Mr. Hellyer: I know the minister does not want to be unfair. Previous efforts had been made to have a shopping centre built on leased land.

Mr. Pearkes: That is right. Efforts had been made by the previous government and every effort had been made to provide this facility but without success, I am afraid. This was the first opportunity which looked promising and since there had not been anybody else coming forward to offer to build this structure, the arrangements were made with this particular company and sale was recommended of the land on the understanding that it would be used solely for the development of a shopping centre for the benefit of the naval personnel in that area.

Mr. Hellyer: What is the state of the development at the present time?

Mr. Pearkes: I am afraid the progress has not been very satisfactory and I do not think the actual building is started even now.

Mr. Hellyer: Is the minister aware that the company to which it was sold has filed notice of bankruptcy?

Mr. Pearkes: I have been so informed.

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Mr. Hellyer: Has the land been deeded to that company by the Minister of National Defence or is title still held by the crown?

Mr. Pearkes: I am informed that the crown is fully protected in this case.

Mr. Hellyer: If the crown is protected, it still has title to the land and it will be able to make some other arrangement for the construction of a shopping centre on that site.

Mr. Pearkes: We hope to review the whole situation and hope that it will be possible yet to make arrangements for the construction of a shopping centre on that site because it is urgently needed.

Mr. Hellyer: Would the minister care to inquire into the situation and give us a report as soon as he can as to the present state of affairs and as to how soon those arrangements can be made to let someone else undertake the project if they are willing to do so?

Mr. Pearkes: I am afraid I have no more information other than what I have given the hon. gentleman. We will keep this matter under very careful advisement and I hope that a satisfactory solution will be reached in the not too distant future. Beyond that I cannot go.

Item agreed to.

Canadian army—

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

Mr. Winch: On this item having to do with operation and maintenance of the Canadian army, I should like to say first of all perhaps I made a mistake when I said the government has no defence policy. They must have some policy or they would not have this estimate. Perhaps I should change what I said and say that Canada has no defence.

As I said yesterday, I was most interested in the remarks of the Minister of National Defence on the introduction of his estimates. I was perhaps more interested in the answers he gave last night to the questions raised by the Leader of the Opposition, myself and others. Because of his answers I believe we are entitled to ask the Minister of National Defence under this vote—not only entitled to ask but we should ask—what is the defence of Canada as far as the armed services are concerned?

From everything we heard yesterday and today from the Minister of National Defence our defence is that we are not going to face a war between 1960 and 1965. We are going to spend hundreds of millions and billions of dollars on all forms of offensive and defensive weapons, but everything that the