

REQUEST FOR REVIEW OF EXPENDITURES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Colin Cameron (Nanaimo): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of National Defence. In the light of the reported statement of Lieutenant General Guy Simonds, former chief of staff, that at least 80 per cent of our present defence expenditure is totally wasted, can the minister assure the house that he and his officials are engaged in a serious and realistic appraisal of Canada's defence position, and is he now prepared to recommend to his colleagues that a committee of the house be set up to investigate the situation?

Hon. G. R. Pearkes (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I can assure the hon. member that I and the officials of my department have been making a very careful and realistic study of the problems to which he refers.

Mr. H. R. Argue (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the minister. In the light of recent international developments, has the Department of National Defence reconsidered the decision to continue with the development of the CF-105?

Mr. Pearkes: The decision was taken the other day to continue with the development of the CF-105 for another year because we believe that in the foreseeable future, if any threat from the air develops against this country the manned bomber will be at least an important part of that threat, and therefore we must have a manned interceptor capable of firing air missiles which will have a homing ability, enabling them to direct themselves on the target. We believe that to be essential.

ROLE OF MILITIA IN CIVIL DEFENCE—REPORTED STATEMENT BY GENERAL WORTHINGTON

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. J. Henderson (Kingston): May I direct a question to the Minister of National Defence. Is General Worthington's statement in the Kingston *Whig-Standard* of November 6 with respect to the militia's role in the civil defence set-up, a copy of which I gave the minister, a statement of policy respecting the new role of the militia in Canada?

Hon. G. R. Pearkes (Minister of National Defence): I thank the hon. member for sending me a copy of what purports to be an interview with General Worthington on the subject of the militia's role in connection with rendering aid to the civil authority in an emergency. As I think the hon. member

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knows, General Worthington recently resigned his appointment as national coordinator of civil defence; therefore he would not be in a position to express government policy. He has been expressing his own views, and as he is a gentleman with wide experience those views will receive careful consideration.

H.M.C.S. "MARGAREE"—TRANSFER FROM EAST TO WEST COAST

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. A. M. Kirk (Shelburne-Yarmouth-Clare): May I direct a question to the Minister of National Defence. Is the destroyer *Margaree* being transferred from the east coast base at Halifax to the west coast base at Esquimalt on a permanent basis? If so, what ship will replace the *Margaree* at Halifax?

Hon. G. R. Pearkes (Minister of National Defence): Yes, Mr. Speaker, H.M.C.S. *Margaree* is being transferred to the west coast on a permanent basis. This ship was commissioned in Halifax on October 5 of this year for service on the Pacific coast. Since she is a new ship and has never been in service in the Atlantic command, there is no question of a replacement.

INDUSTRY

BONAVENTURE, QUE.—REPORTED PROMISE TO BUILD PULP MILL

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Wilfrid LaCroix (Quebec-Montmorency): May I direct a question to the Minister of Public Works. In view of the reply of the minister to my question regarding the establishment of a pulp mill at Bonaventure, I would like to ask him if his government recognizes any responsibility or jurisdiction in the matter.

Hon. Howard C. Green (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, so far as I know it is not the responsibility of the government to establish pulp mills.

HEALTH INSURANCE

REFERENCE TO REPORTED STATEMENT BY PREMIER OF MANITOBA

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Louis Deniset (St. Boniface): I would like to direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Would the minister care to comment on a statement made by the minister of health of Manitoba, which statement was reported in the press on November 1, 1957, that the national hospital insurance plan could have been started