

The Address—Mr. McKinnon

forces were intercepted in the North, they would be intercepted not over northern Canada but in the Arctic archipelago. Will the Hon. Member give us the value of his experience and views on these two matters?

Mr. McKinnon: Mr. Speaker, at one stage of the Hon. Member's remarks he asked whether or not the standing committee should take up this matter. That was very well put. However, I would like to comment on that point. One of the great things about the reform of Parliament is that under able leadership standing committees are able to decide for themselves what they will investigate and on what they will make reports. As soon as the appointment is official I will be in touch with the Chairman of that standing committee. I do not expect to have to go too far to find him.

The question with respect to whether we should have the Air Force and the Army both in Europe has been around for years. This is compounded by the CAST obligation to go to Norway and whether or not it will detract from our ability to reinforce our troops at Lahr. I think this matter should be the subject of an intensive study to determine just what are our options. We managed CAST. It drew its guidelines and went at the appointed time. However, it was peacetime. There was a year of warning. It could not be said officially whether anything took place until a certain date. However, the force did not have to be resupplied and reinforced. This raises the question of whether or not we will take our best trained troops and send them all overseas at the start, leaving no way to train the troops that will need to be trained. Some people may consider this a 40-year-old dogma with respect to training reinforcements. Some people may say that that day is over, and they may be right. However, we have two different scenarios to consider. The first is with respect to conventional war, and the other is with respect to nuclear war. Today, I have only considered conventional war.

As far as the retired generals are concerned, I know one of them quite well, General Beattie, who is a very thoughtful person. He has a very good record in terms of being the type of general to whom attention should be paid. He makes the simple point that if we were to mount the early warning line along the edge of the archipelago, we would be in a much better position. He does not emphasize the cost with respect to this proposal, which would be considerably higher than what was actually proposed. That is another subject on which I do not think people who just read newspapers should express too many opinions.

● (1510)

Mr. Riis: Mr. Speaker, I have two questions for the Hon. Member for Victoria (Mr. McKinnon). As usual, I enjoyed his interesting and thoughtful presentation to the House. I appreciated many of the points which he made. However, I guess my two questions are directed to him more as a Member of Parliament from British Columbia. Like the rest of us, I am sure he shares in the many concerns of that province in terms of difficult economic times.

One point on which he did not elaborate very much in his Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne was the

pending decision to construct the Polar 8 ice-breaker. I know his colleagues in his Party, like all of us from British Columbia, have been lobbying in whatever way possible to encourage the federal Government to consider the hard-pressed shipyards on the West Coast and therefore to give consideration to their bid in the issuance of this contract. I would like to ask the Hon. Member about his views on the chances of this contract being approved so that we will see the construction of at least the major part of the Polar 8 ice-breaker being done in West Coast shipyards.

Also, while he is on his feet, I wonder whether he could respond to something which I am sure concerns us all in terms of identifying and understanding the sequence of events. The Minister for International Trade (Miss Carney) was required to make an offer to the United States forest industry in an effort to head off what appeared to be a pending decision which would go against Canada. My question to the Hon. Member would be: What precipitated this process and the calling of this eleventh hour meeting or this eleventh hour overture? From what I have read and from what I understand, it was the public musings of the Premier of British Columbia a few weeks ago, saying that it was time that we re-evaluated our stumpage fees in British Columbia. In my estimation this in a sense pushed the IWA and the forestry industry to have to agree with the Premier, which in turn led to the federal Government having to make this last minute overture. I would appreciate the Hon. Member's thoughtful views on that question as well.

Mr. McKinnon: Mr. Speaker, I find the second question to be rather unusual, coming from my distinguished friend and colleague, the Hon. Member for Kamloops—Shuswap (Mr. Riis). I should like to compliment him upon his new position in the NDP. I am sure that he will carry out his functions with an ability which we have become quite accustomed to expecting from him.

However, my understanding of the rules is that a question should be about my speech, not about the Speech from the Throne. I do not recall having become embroiled in the ongoing discussion of this matter between the Minister for International Trade (Miss Carney) and people from the Hon. Member's Party. I recall that some two or three months ago, Mr. Munro, known in union circles on the West Coast, came out with the same idea about stumpage fees needing to be increased.

Turning to the Polar 8 about which I spoke, I am sure that we share the same hope that the work will come to the West Coast. If I might boast a bit, in answer to one of my questions in the House in 1983 about contracts for six frigates all going to the St. Lawrence Valley and the East Coast and nothing going to the West Coast, the then Minister of Supply and Services promised that the Polar 8 would be tendered on the West Coast only. I think that was one of the strongest arguments we had in favour of it. It is our turn and we deserve it.