

North Atlantic Treaty

Mr. Speaker: Thank you indeed. Perhaps we can now have an answer to the question which was raised by the leader of the opposition.

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I have listened to what the leader of the opposition has said. I did not listen to the radio this morning and I did not see the dispatch to which he has referred; but I can assure him and the house that though we all knew when the brigade was going to Europe that it would have to be housed, the question as to how that was going to be done has not been discussed by the government so far, and there is no justification whatsoever for this report to which the leader of the opposition has referred.

Whenever the government does come to a conclusion with respect to this matter it will be announced here, and the house will be asked in the usual way to make provision for carrying out the recommendation the government may have to make. No policy has been decided upon by the government in that respect, and this matter as to whether and where and how new barracks may have to be built has not yet been determined. The barracks that are at present occupied are barracks which had been allotted to the United Kingdom forces, and that have been placed provisionally at the disposal of the Canadian brigade.

Now, what will ultimately be done about it has not yet been determined, and there is nothing so far that the government could announce in that respect. I am sorry it frequently happens there are assertions made over the radio and in the press that are not founded upon information properly obtained. I do not know where they get this. It may be summarizing rumours which are being talked about in public. But this matter has not come before the government. There has been no decision made about it; and when there is, it will be communicated to parliament as it should be.

Mr. Drew: I welcome the assurance by the Prime Minister because, as I explained, this was given in such factual detail that it raised the question as to whether some decision had been reached. But I would offer a suggestion in relation to the matter, which the Prime Minister has very clearly indicated is important, that if the practice of making anonymous statements by officials of the Department of National Defence were discontinued, some of this confusion might be avoided.

Hon. Brooke Claxton (Minister of National Defence): I must rise to answer that. I have in the Department of National Defence and in the three armed forces in Canada, the

navy, the army and the air force, as good a group of public servants, devoted to the cause of Canada, as there ever has been serving this country.

There is no practice of making anonymous statements. Everyone knows that every statement issued by the Department of National Defence is issued over my name, if it contains a statement of policy; and otherwise they are issued as statements by National Defence headquarters or by the service concerned. There are no other statements. The suggestion the leader of the opposition (Mr. Drew) makes in this connection is just as far afield as anything could be.

How can we be responsible for a newspaper report which apparently emanated from Germany and which, so far as one can see, is based upon speculation—because the location of the proposed camp in Germany has not been finally decided upon. There is no decision as to the type of construction. There is no decision as to the arrangements under which the land would be made available. There is no decision as to the manner in which the costs would be met. All these are matters which have to be worked out.

Everyone knows, as the Prime Minister has said, that our troops have to be housed. They have to winter over there. They cannot live out in this weather. But the arrangements under which this is to be done have still to be decided upon, both with regard to the three occupying powers, the German government and the NATO organization.

RADIO BROADCASTING**THIRD AND FINAL REPORT**

Mr. W. A. Robinson (Simcoe East) presented the third and final report of the special committee on radio broadcasting.

Mr. E. D. Fulton (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the hon. member for Simcoe East, who has just tabled the report of the radio committee, if he will make it clear that this report was not concurred in by members of the opposition on the committee, and that it is a majority report only.

Mr. Robinson: It speaks for itself.

REPORTS AND PAPERS

Annual report of the Department of Citizenship and Immigration, in English and in French.—**Mr. Harris (Grey-Bruce).**