

Supply—National Defence

Mr. MacLean (Queens): Before the minister proceeds to that matter may I ask him, as a supplementary question, what is to be the position of members of what used to be the Canadian navy when Canadian ships visit foreign ports? It should be remembered that the only Canadian servicemen those in foreign countries see are, or were, sailors in their distinctive naval uniforms. Around the world naval uniforms generally follow a similar pattern. It does not matter what country the sailors come from, they take pride in being recognized as sailors.

Our sailors, when visiting foreign countries—as they frequently do—become ambassadors of this country. I should like the minister to say, if he can, that when our ships visit foreign ports Canadian sailors will be able to go ashore to be recognized for what they are.

Mr. Churchill: Hear, hear.

Mr. Hellyer: I have talked to quite a few sailors in the last three or four weeks who told me that in future they would be very proud to wear the Canadian service dress when they visit foreign ports.

So far as the new headquarters is concerned, I assure the hon. member for Carleton that the Minister of Public Works is as anxious as is the associate minister and as I am to see this matter go forward. Pretty well, so far, we have stuck to the schedule. As my hon. friend knows, this project has been more thoroughly planned than any other major office building has been planned in the history of the Canadian government. At the same time there is an urgency to get ahead with it. It is being actively considered at the present time by the government, and I hope that a decision may be taken shortly to proceed with the project as planned.

Mr. Bell (Carleton): Would the minister be good enough to tell me what the time scheduling of the building is?

Mr. Hellyer: From memory, the last time schedule I saw called for completion in 1972.

Mr. Bell (Carleton): Commencing when?

Mr. Hellyer: I have to qualify that answer, because it depends on the contract. If it is a fixed price contract the commencement is likely to be later than if separate contracts are let for separate parts of the building.

Mr. Bell (Carleton): When does the minister expect tenders will be called?

[Mr. Hellyer.]

Mr. Hellyer: Not sooner than one year from now, or perhaps two years from now, depending on the type of contract that is approved.

Mr. Bell (Carleton): Why is there such a long delay?

Mr. Hellyer: Considerable detailed work has to be done in the plans for the building—these are the working drawings. If a fixed price contract is decided on by the government it will require about one year's additional detailed work before tenders can be called. The time involved is approximately of that order.

Mr. Knowles: Before the minister leaves that question, may I raise a point? Was he leaving that question?

Mr. Hellyer: That question, yes.

Mr. Knowles: Before he leaves that question may I ask whether the plans for the new national defence headquarters, and particularly the height of the building, have been reconsidered? As the minister knows, some of us registered an objection to a building which would be higher than the peace tower on parliament hill being built close to these parliament buildings.

Mr. Bell (Carleton): Hear, hear.

Mr. Knowles: May I ask whether the height of the building has been reconsidered?

Mr. Hellyer: After the objection was raised the matter was reconsidered. Nevertheless, following consultations with some of the best site architects on this side of the water, and on the other, it was concluded that the building is sufficiently removed from parliament hill that it will not interfere in any way with the skyline. In fact, it will enhance the skyline, particularly from the Hull side, the Interprovincial bridge and the Macdonald-Cartier bridge. The present plan is to proceed with the building, as designed.

Mr. Knowles: The minister has expressed an opinion with which some of us may disagree. Have we yet voted the money for this building?

Mr. Hellyer: No, not yet. My hon. friend at the requisite time will have another opportunity to state his views on this matter. He appreciates, I expect, that there are as many views about architecture and town planning as there are people involved with respect to