

Above all, the Minister informed the House that the big problem was equipment. Practically no new equipment had been acquired since the last war. Canada had the man-power, but men could not fight without weapons.

Even at that early date he was able to announce that a Supply Committee had been set up to survey industry, to ascertain its potential capacity and to record in readily available form complete data as to the facilities existing in Canada for production of her necessary defence equipment.

In explanation of the priorities it is well to remember that the Pacific Coast was considered in 1936 to be in more critical position than the Atlantic because of the threatened hostilities between Japan and China, an outbreak which it was then feared might speedily involve several of the occidental powers with large interests in the Far East. The view that an outbreak was about to occur was justified by the event, but happily other nations have not yet become directly involved.

Priority among the three services was a logical consequence of the nature of the essential defence problem.

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W.L.M. King Papers, Memoranda and Notes, 1933-1939  
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