

Supply—External Affairs

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Read where he outlines the three points.

Mr. Nesbitt: I do not know what the minister has in mind but I do know what I have in mind.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): I know what the hon. gentleman has in mind, which is why I am trying to get the hon. member to read the three points that General Allard made in the committee.

Mr. Nesbitt: If the minister wants to put them on the record I would be very happy to yield the floor to him in a moment. I should like to refer to an extract from the evidence of General Allard before the defence committee on Tuesday, February 28, and which is referred to at page 15004 of *Hansard* for April 17:

Canada now wants, while remaining faithful to its existing commitments, to decide itself on the part it wishes to play in the new international society. This is not only its right, it is also its duty. It is its duty to participate, to the best of its ability, in keeping the peace by supporting the organization which has made itself the champion of the smaller nations, the United Nations organization.

In short, that is the transformation proposed by the white paper. That is what we are trying to do. My duty is to organize the military forces in accordance with government policy.

That is what General Allard said at St. Catharines, and it is what U Thant said the other day in Montreal.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): What is wrong with that?

Mr. Nesbitt: The question whether or not it is advisable is a matter of opinion and debate. I think it is wrong to make the major duty of our defence forces the serving of UN purposes and turning the defence of this country largely over to the United States.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Surely my hon. friend does not do justice to his reasoning. He read out that General Allard stated that apart from our foreign policy commitments we should so mould the development of national defence consistent with our obligations in the United Nations. He did not ignore the fact that we had other foreign policy commitments, such as NATO. My hon. friend should read that passage again.

Mr. Nesbitt: That is what General Allard said in the committee, but later on he said that a mobile world peace force was the major goal. The secretary general also said the other day that he had that information. It is a

question whether one thinks this is advisable or not. I agree that an argument can be made for doing that kind of thing, but that is not the subject for discussion tonight.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Chairman, I must insist. My hon. friend read to the committee what General Allard said. General Allard did not say exclusively what my hon. friend is now affirming. General Allard said that we had certain foreign policy commitments and that we also intended to do a peace keeping job. What my hon. friend is seeking to do is to convey the impression that General Allard said that our only purpose in national defence now was to provide for peace keeping. That is not what my hon. friend read out a few moments ago and attributed to General Allard.

• (9:30 p.m.)

Mr. Nesbitt: The minister can think whatever he pleases, and if he wants to make another speech he has a perfect right to do so. I do not know what other impression can be gained from what the secretary general said in Montreal the other day. The right hon. Leader of the Opposition put that on the record this afternoon. I do not know what other impression can be gained from this newspaper sentence, which I again quote: "Mobile World Peace Force Major Goal, Says Allard" than the obvious one, even though the minister says that peace keeping is not the major goal of the unification bill. That it is the goal of that bill is the impression of a good many people, including leading members of the press, of this country. They have that impression regardless of what the minister says.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): I look upon the *Woodstock Sentinel-Review* as one of the leading members of the press.

Mr. Nesbitt: I read out the heading of a Canadian Press dispatch. If the minister does not like the Canadian Press, that is his business.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): I like the Canadian Press, too.

Mr. Nesbitt: That is where this dispatch came from.

Mr. Douglas: The minister is all things to all men.

Mr. Nesbitt: I shall come to that. The leader of the N.D.P. made a very apt observation.