

Supply—National Defence

were brought into this form. Any suggestion that this so-called white paper constitutes a presentation of a new set of facts for consideration by this house has been properly described, in a number of responsible publications, as a fraud upon the people of Canada. It is nothing but an attempt to put in digested form the statements we have already been given.

Now, Mr. Chairman, one of the things that must surely be clear now is that if there were some method by which the members of this house were sure that what was happening was under constant supervision, then we would not suddenly discover these things indirectly as we do at the present time. If, for instance, there had been some device by which responsible members of all parties had continuing access to information in the House of Commons and outside, then, having regard to the statement by the Minister of National Defence that Canada had decided to standardize its equipment two years ago, the members of this committee would have known long ago that the decision had not in fact been implemented at any time. We would not suddenly have discovered two years later that the decision, if it was made, at any rate had not actually been carried into operative effect. The members of this committee would also have known that we were not able to train some of our units. They would know something about the equipment that we have available in this country. They would know something about the adequacy of our training facilities to which reference has been made.

In the light of the contradictions to which I have referred, in the face of the very kind of answer given by the Minister of National Defence with regard to the *Magnificent*, I repeat once again, in spite of the statement already made by the Minister of National Defence, that the security of this country and the fulfilment of the obligation of parliament demand the setting up without any further delay of a select committee on national defence. Why is the government resisting this reasonable proposal?

Not one reason given by the government for not setting up such a committee holds water. On an earlier occasion the Minister of National Defence said that it would be taking from the government its responsibility for policy.

An hon. Member: That is where I came in in 1949.

Mr. Drew: Mr. Chairman, I think I shall refer to the remark just made by one of the Liberal members: That is where I came in in 1949. I am glad to hear that flippant

[Mr. Drew.]

remark, which indicates exactly how much that member has learned since he came in in 1949, or how much he wants to learn. That hon. member has been here since 1949, and apparently he is just as satisfied now as he was then simply to cast his ballot and to hope that everything will be all right.

An hon. Member: You could not make a better statement.

The Chairman: Order.

An hon. Member: That is the best thing you have said tonight.

Mr. Drew: No, Mr. Chairman; I think one of the most useful things that could happen would be if the people of Canada were able to listen over the radio to the applause of Liberal members for a statement of that kind. I only regret that we have not yet television in Canada, so that the people of Canada could see an imitation of trained seals such as we are seeing in this committee at the present time. The only difference, of course, is that trained seals usually have an intelligent look upon their faces.

An hon. Member: You are getting red around the neck now.

The Chairman: Order.

An hon. Member: You would look beautiful.

Mr. Drew: Mr. Chairman, it is just exactly as the hon. member said; and I am referring to the last one.

Mr. Chairman, we are discussing survival, and we hear these asinine remarks from Liberal members in regard to things of this kind. We are discussing at this time an item of over \$1,400 million and we hear nothing but maudlin nonsense from many of the Liberal members who are supposed to be representing the Canadian people at a time like this.

An hon. Member: The people have put the administration of their affairs in good hands, though.

Mr. Drew: It is at least reassuring, Mr. Chairman—

An hon. Member: We have to listen to this; we might as well participate.

Mr. Drew: —to know that some of the members are actually alive; because the only time that we hear from some of them is when they make noises such as they are making at the moment.

An hon. Member: That was a profound remark.

Mr. Ferrie: When they have something to say, they say it.