

Supply—National Defence

Mr. Pickersgill: Surely the minister can tell us how much was spent last year on land and where it was?

Mr. Pearkes: Whether all that amount of money was spent I do not know. That was the amount which was provided in last year's estimates for the acquisition of land. I am told that amount was spent.

Mr. Pickersgill: Could the minister say whether the particular transaction to which—

Mr. Pearkes: It was not spent entirely on this one piece of property but on a large number of properties, I am told.

Mr. Pearson: But did the amount include this particular transaction about which we have been trying to get information from the minister?

Mr. Pearkes: It did include the cost of the land, which is known as the commune St. Antoine de la Baie du Febvre.

Mr. Pearson: Could the minister tell us the amount which was included for that purpose?

Mr. Pearkes: I am told \$400,000.

Mr. Pearson: Well, Mr. Chairman, we have been able to ascertain the amount was \$400,000, but we are unable to get any more information out of the minister in regard to this matter. He says this is a matter for the Department of Transport, and we can do our best to get the information from the Minister of Transport who will, undoubtedly, tell us it is a matter for the minister of defence. But as the minister feels it is not possible for him to give us any more information, and as he is unwilling to allow this item to stand until tomorrow for the consideration of this one point, perhaps in these circumstances we will have to let the record show what has happened and go on to the next item.

Item agreed to.

Royal Canadian Air Force—

221. Operation and maintenance, \$546,991,000.

Mr. Winch: On this vote I should like to ask a pertinent question of the Minister of National Defence. In view of the minister's analysis of the situation in Europe and the government's decision that our squadrons in Europe now have to be equipped with new planes which it intends to purchase from the United States and which will not become available until between two and two and a half years, I should like to ask the Minister of National Defence, irrespective of the situation in Europe and the equipment of the R.C.A.F. in Europe, if he would give us his analysis of our position in Canada in the event of a war of aggression and our position

under NORAD with special reference to what will be the equipment of our R.C.A.F. squadrons in Canada.

Mr. Pearkes: The nine squadrons employed on the air defence of Canada are equipped with CF-100's.

Mr. Winch: Is there a differentiation made by the minister in his understanding of the air defence policy as between Canadians in Europe and Canadians in Canada? It is my understanding from the statements made by the minister yesterday and today that it is felt necessary that the R.C.A.F. in Europe should be equipped with more modern equipment than CF-100's or Sabre jets, that they must have the finest equipment available. Is it the minister's position and his statement of policy on behalf of the government that although we must now spend some \$300 million for the equipping of the R.C.A.F. under NATO command in Europe with the latest possible fighters, that in Canada our squadrons—I believe it is nine—

Mr. Pearkes: Nine.

Mr. Winch: The CF-100 is all right for Canada. Do I understand that is the position?

Mr. Pearkes: There are four squadrons with the air division in Europe which are equipped and still remain equipped for the time being with the CF-100. There is no plan to change the type of equipment which those four squadrons with the air division have. In Canada, the nine squadrons are equipped with the same all-weather long-distance reconnaissance aircraft, the CF-100, and the defence of Canada, or the air defence of this continent, would be reinforced by the acquisition of the Bomarc batteries to reinforce the nine squadrons of CF-100.

Mr. Winch: Now we are getting it. Our squadrons in Canada will be reinforced by Bomarcs. But in view of the fact that the majority of the money is going to be spent because of the possibility that the two giants, the U.S.S.R. to our north and the United States in the south, may come into conflict, what is the actual situation of our fighter force in Canada to be? I understand from the minister that it is going to be equipped with CF-100's, is it not?

Mr. Pearkes: The nine air defence squadrons in Canada are equipped with CF-100's.

Mr. Winch: And there is to be no change?

Mr. Pearkes: There is no change contemplated in these estimates.