

*National Security Measures*

responsible for logistic and technical support for all commands as they go north of the sixtieth parallel. These commands, whether their forces are seaborne or ground forces, have a responsibility to work with the northern region command so as to carry out an effective exercise in any part of the territories.

In the past year a considerable number of exercises have taken place in various parts of the north to determine the ability of our forces to move and survive in various parts of the Arctic in both summer and winter conditions, to develop new techniques of search and rescue, and so on. So we have seen a start on the infrastructure. I think I can say that northern people welcome this initiative, not only in terms of the national scene but because they are delighted to have a military presence back again north of the sixtieth parallel.

Other hon. members, especially the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. Buchanan), have indicated there were many areas in which a military presence could play an effective role in helping develop the Canadian north. My hon. friend made reference to a joint program of building airstrips in co-operation with the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. A program for building these airstrips has been set out for seven or eight years based on the availability of funds to be provided by one department, the Department of Northern Affairs. However, because of the military involvement this program can now be completed much earlier and many northern communities will be served by adequate airstrips much sooner than would have been the case under the old arrangements.

The engineering corps has undertaken the responsibility of building a bridge across the Ogilvie River. This is a bridge which would have been completed eventually by the civil authority, but because the military were able to undertake this task, funds were released enabling the highway approaches to be completed, incidentally opening access to the Arctic Ocean from the Yukon territory. There are many other areas in which military forces could make a positive contribution.

The minister referred to his visit to Fort Smith last Sunday when the mayor of that community, Mr. Paul Kaeser, directed his attention to a proposal to use the services of the young people in the north who are undergoing vocational training, in co-operation with the technical abilities of the armed forces, to complete a stretch of road which is so low on the list of priorities for northern development that I doubt it will be completed in the seventies.

• (4:20 p.m.)

However, a program is now being worked out between various government departments to use the skills of young northerners, under supervision of experts in the armed forces, to complete one other step in the process of northern development and thus fulfil the dream and the hope of many people in that area. When we had the opportunity of introducing the minister last Sunday, and following the mayor's eloquent plea for the building of this road, I could not help but think that if the Minister

of National Defence (Mr. Macdonald) were able to pull it off, this highway should be named after him.

We must also look at the relationship between the military and the civilian community in the north. I have already indicated that this particular road is low in the order of priorities and probably would not be completed during this decade. However, I think that the military have the responsibility for ensuring that their activities, be they in the field of engineering, search and rescue or something else, do not conflict with the interests of civilian operators and people engaged in private enterprise. I believe the military are conscious of that and are making a serious attempt to ensure that there is no such conflict. However, we cannot repeat too often that we must keep close surveillance of and observation of the relationships between the military and the civilian community.

In the field of search and rescue, Northern Command will be setting up a small aircraft fleet in Yellowknife. From time to time there will be pressure to provide services that are normally provided by the civilian operators, and I believe we should insist that there be no conflict here. There will be cases, as happened last week, when a civilian operator is unable to provide the service. Since the military had available the equipment to meet a very serious situation facing one mining community, the mining community, the management, the military and the civilian operators were able to work out a mutual arrangement satisfactory to all and at the same time meet an emergency situation.

With regard to airstrips, by and large there are no communities in the north with civilian operators who can provide equipment to build airstrips. However, in one particular community, Igloolik, it is proposed to go ahead with the development of an airstrip. At the same time, there is an Eskimo community with the necessary equipment to build the airstrip and I think all concerned have agreed it would be better to move this project to another community rather than to conflict with the interests of the Eskimos at Igloolik.

There are still many areas in the north with which the Department of National Defence can concern itself. Last week, during his stop in Yellowknife, the Minister of National Defence announced an exciting new program of recruitment to interest young northerners in a career in the armed forces. The minister indicated that an attempt will be made to recruit 100 men and women for training in the administrative, transportation, supply, food services and communications fields. He went on to say that on completion of their training these young people from the north will be qualified to serve in any armed forces unit; however, particular emphasis will be placed on locating them in the north.

The minister indicated that opportunities were manifold for northerners, but possibly most important of all was that with increased activity of armed forces personnel in the north and by arrangement with northern headquarters a requirement has developed in the north for people with a special knowledge of local working and living conditions and the terrain in the north, to kick off this program. Recruiting teams from various parts of southern Canada are planning to visit the major com-

[Mr. Orange.]