

Supply—National Defence

Mr. O'Hurley: Which you were going to destroy, yourself.

Mr. Harkness: It is so up to date that the capabilities of the plane are still on the secret list and have never been given out. Such a statement by the hon. gentleman from Bonavista-Twillingate indicates his lack of knowledge in regard to this matter, and he referred back to the greatest mistake ever made in defence ordering. This was to order and start putting into production the Arrow aircraft which cost this country a very large amount of money and which, if carried through, would have cost an enormous amount of money and would have resulted in practically cutting out all other defence expenditures, or bringing in a large increase in taxes. It was the worst mistake ever made in regard to securing defence equipment.

The Deputy Chairman: Shall vote 645 carry?

Mr. Pearson: Perhaps I did not hear the minister. Did the minister say this Voodoo plane is now being manufactured in the United States?

Mr. Harkness: It is not being manufactured at the present time.

Mr. Pickersgill: That is what I said.

Mr. Harkness: As a matter of fact the planes we got came off the production line not so very long ago, and the fact that there are no further ones being manufactured now has nothing to do with the performance of this plane or whether it is up to date.

Mr. Pearson: The fact that the plane is not being manufactured at all at the moment shows that the Americans have given up on that plane, and that is the end of that plane so far as manufacture is concerned. The facts speak for themselves. It may be a first class plane, but it is not really a first class plane when the Americans have given up manufacturing it.

The Deputy Chairman: Shall vote 645 carry?

Mr. Hellyer: Can the minister say if there is anything included in this item for acquisition of manual control back up radars as an alternative means of controlling our air defence in the event that the majority of our SAGE installations have been wiped out?

Mr. Harkness: Not in this estimate.

The Deputy Chairman: Shall vote 645 carry?

Mr. Hellyer: Before it does I wonder would the minister just tell us the reply to this question. Is he asking us to vote money for the F-101 not knowing whether it will ever

[Mr. Hellyer.]

be equipped with an atomic missile which in his opinion, as he stated earlier, it has to have if it is to reach its full potential?

The Deputy Chairman: Shall vote 645 carry?

Mr. Hellyer: No, Mr. Chairman. Just give the minister a moment to reflect on the question.

Some hon. Members: Carried.

The Deputy Chairman: Shall vote 645 carry?

Mr. Hellyer: I have one more simple question. Is the minister asking us to vote funds for the acquisition of the F-104 without knowing whether it will ever be equipped with atomic missiles in order to perform the strike attack role for which the aircraft were originally purchased?

The Deputy Chairman: Shall vote 645 carry?

Mr. Pearson: Before it does, will the minister admit that these questions are relevant to the item under discussion?

Mr. Harkness: No.

The Deputy Chairman: Shall vote 645 carry?

Mr. Hellyer: Just a minute. Would the minister say if there are any armaments being bought at the present time for the F-104?

Mr. Harkness: As the 104's have only begun to come off the production line and we are just setting up training facilities to train the crews to operate them. They will not be going into operation for a year and, as I said several times before, the matter of securing armaments for them is not an urgent matter at this time.

Mr. Hellyer: If the matter of securing armaments is not urgent surely the question of what kind of armaments will be secured is urgent because it affects the decision as to whether or not we should proceed with this expenditure?

Mr. Churchill: Vote against it.

Mr. Hellyer: The minister has cast aspersions on the decision to commence the construction of the Avro Arrow. He did this many times before. He did it on the west coast, in Victoria, when he was out there during a by-election. He has said that it was the greatest mistake Canada ever made, and so on, notwithstanding the fact that when the cancellation was made the Prime Minister had told the house that it was in complete good faith.

Mr. Pugh: What did Mr. Howe say?

The Deputy Chairman: Order. The question of the cancellation of the Arrow came up by way of analogy previously. I hope