

Halton M.P. Makes Farewell Radio Speech



F. A. BENDER, of Montreal, has been appointed chief of motive power and rolling stock for the Canadian Pacific Railway. A graduate of Queen's University, Mr. Benger has been assistant chief of motive power and rolling stock since 1948, and has had jurisdiction over all branches of mechanical engineering for the railway's diesel and steam locomotives, cars and power plants, as well as supervision over standards and methods. A native of Port Arthur, he has been with the CPR since 1911. He was largely responsible for the streamlining jobs done on the Canadian Pacific's steam locomotives, including such famous models as the "Royal Hudson" type which hauled the Royal Train of 1939 and the giant "Selkirk," largest steam locomotives in the Commonwealth.

Good Evening, My Friends:

Since the present session of the House of Commons will end in less than a month, this broadcast will therefore be the last broadcast which I will be making to you as your member from Parliament Hill. After having had the honour of serving you for eighteen years, I would not like to have my years of service end without a word of farewell and appreciation, which I will do at the end of this broadcast.

Perhaps the most important subject which has been under discussion in the House since my last radio report to you, is our defence program. It will be recalled that the active aggression in Korea which occurred in June of 1950, brought about the formation of the North Atlantic Treaty organization, which was approved in Washington, in October of that year. Canada's proposed contribution to NATO was announced in the House of Commons the following February. On that occasion the House of Commons approved a contribution by Canada of 5 billion dollars on a three year plan, which was to cost the Canadian taxpayer approximately 1 billion the first year and 2 billion dollars each of the two succeeding years. We now have two years of the plan behind us and are moving into the concluding year. Under this plan as outlined to the House on February 5th, we were to spend on personnel equipment, construction and operation and maintenance, 5 billion dollars. We now know that the cost is going to exceed this amount by about five percent, and the following is a breakdown of the figures.

We have expended, or will expend during the total three year period of the plan, on military personnel 1164 million dollars. The total strength of our forces in the navy, army and air force as of April this year, was 104,500 in the active forces and 58,400 in the reserve. The cost per man per year in the active force works out to just under \$2,300.00 and is broken down as follows:

Pay and allowance, \$1,135.00; Subsistence, \$732.00; Clothing and personal equipment, \$136.00; Medical and dental, \$43.00; Pension Fund, \$205.00.

It should be remembered that since 43 per cent of the members of our armed forces are married men, and since our armed forces are permanent forces, this necessitates extensive construction costs for married quarters, chapels, schools and all of the other amenities of the average civilian community.

The next big item of our rearmament program is equipment. Here the total which we have spent is just over 2 billion dollars, made up of the cost of ships, planes, guns and ammunition. Time does not permit me to go into all of the particulars, and I will simply be able to give you the overall totals. In the navy our program called for nearly 100 ships and many small craft, either new or to be refitted. Today we have 56, and we expect to achieve our target. As to aircraft, in the air force our program called for 40 regular and reserve squadrons, with more than 3,000 additional aircraft. We expect to complete the program on time insofar as it relates to our NATO commitments and the equipping of our

regular forces in Canada. We have been criticized for meeting our NATO commitments in advance of our program for defence in Canada. It is purely a matter of judgment as to which should come first, and we strongly believe that as to Air Force our commitments in Europe should come first. As to guns, ammunition and all types of military equipment, we shall not be able to complete the whole of the program on schedule, but our NATO commitments will be met on time.

The next major head of expenditures is construction. Here we will have spent a total of 665 million dollars. Included under this item is the construction of buildings for operations, research laboratories, barrack blocks, cookhouses, permanent married quarters and the like. It also included the enlargement of existing training centres, building of some new ones, and the changing of existing installations from a temporary to a permanent character.

The final major item in the program is the sum of 1,310 million dollars for operation and maintenance. This item includes all of the necessary cost, including oil and fuel, for maintaining the forces and to enable them to carry on their operations. The above figures represent a total of 875 million dollars by way of contributions of equipment and NATO air crew training by way of mutual aid. Under this heading we have delivered nearly 400 million dollars worth of equipment up to date, and we have already expended over 150 million dollars in NATO air crew training. The balance of the total above indicated will represent future deliveries of equipment and future cost of NATO air crew training.

Looking at the picture now that we are less than, one year away from the final completion of the proposed rearmament program, we have a right to feel some sense of satisfaction on two scores. In the first place, the difference between the actual and estimated cost is only 5 percent, and in the second place, as to the major part of the program it will be completed practically on scheduled time. We have been criticized for supplying our overseas commitments in advance of our own defence forces here in Canada. As to a three year plan which obviously cannot all be completed immediately, some parts of it can be done at once and others must wait. We believed that the most important part of the program, and the part which should be met first, was our commitments to the NATO and our mutual aid commitments. Mr. Drew and General Pearkes in the opposition take the opposite view, and they severely criticize the fact that the permanent defence forces in Canada have been neglected until our overseas commitments were made.

I now quote from Gen. Pearkes, who said:

"Air commitments to NATO have been met but our air arm at the moment is insufficient to meet our NATO commitments without stripping, as has been done, units in Canada which are for the defence of Canada. We are told that we should defend Canada as far away from Canada as possible. That is a delightful dream, but in order to be effective, arrangements would have to be made with the enemy that they would attack Canada as far away from Canada as possible. We might possibly send all our troops down to the Falkland Islands, and they could not get very much farther away, but I question whether we would be doing very much for the defence of Canada if we did that. The long and the short of this matter, seems to be that we have left our front door wide open while we sallied forth through the back door."

Then on the following day, Col. Drew made the following statement in the House. I quote:

"Let us remember that we are told that the first objective is the immediate defence of Canada and North America from direct attack. The hon. member for Nanaimo yesterday pointed out — and gave supporting figures — that in spite of this tremendous expenditure the government has not provided for the defence of Canada and North America from direct attack. In fact the hon. member for Nanaimo has made it clear that not one service — the army, the navy, or the air force — in so far as the direct defence of Canada is concerned, is in a position to meet an attack of that kind."

I now quote the minister's answer to this criticism:

"It is rather important to keep a sense of proportion. In my position I do not make decisions about air force plans, about the program of aircraft, about how many aircraft are to be sent abroad, the types of aircraft we are going to make, without long, patient and thorough investigation by the people whom I regard as the most competent in the world to make that investigation, namely my advisers and the Royal Canadian Air Force."

May I now say a few words of farewell. One does not win four successive federal elections without the unselfish and loyal support of a host of friends. To these friends I wish to express my sincere thanks. The work has been heavy at times, but it has been interesting work, and well worthwhile. Looking back over my term of office, it is with some pride that I am reminded of the very substantial strides which Canada has made in the standard



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In the international field Canada made a very substantial contribution toward the winning of the second world war, and under the leadership of our present prime minister and our own Mike Pearson, Canada's contribution to U.N., to NATO, and the other international measures to maintain our democratic way of life and world peace, has been substantial. It is gratifying to all of us to know that we are the only country in the world which is financing the rearmament program without going into debt. Under these circumstances, high taxes are inevitable. High taxes are not popular, but a nation cannot get into trouble by a pay-as-you-go policy.

The only way you can do your part to ensure a continuous and the same kind of good government that you are now having, is to elect a Liberal member for Halton this year. An able young man, Murray McPhail, has accepted the Liberal nomination. I have known him for many years, and I know that should you elect him you will not be disappointed with the type of service he will give you. Reared on the farm and now in business, he is old enough to have mature judgment, but young enough to have a young man's energy and viewpoint.

In the coming campaign you will hear the argument that the Liberal government has been in office too long, and the idea will be given that we are now being governed by men who have been in power for nearly a fifth of a century, and that they are tired, old and decrepit. Nothing could be further from the

truth. It has been my good fortune to serve under two of the ablest prime ministers which this country has yet produced, and the present prime minister has been in office for less than six years. Of a cabinet of twenty members and eleven parliamentary assistants, only two were in office when I was first elected in 1935, being Rt. Hon. C. D. Howe and Rt. Hon. J. G. Gardiner. One half of the present Cabinet have been in office for less than six years.

Many folks of both parties in the past months have been kind enough to express regret that I am not running again, and to tell me that they appreciate the non-partisan way in which I have served my county, and so with a feeling of deep gratitude and some regret, I reach the end of one of the most interesting periods of one's life. Good night and thank you all.

Proprietor, Speyside Store Wm. Douglas Dies

Owner of a general store at Speyside, William Douglas, 80, died in Toronto on April 10th. Mr. Douglas was born in Streetsville and was a son of George Douglas and Margaret Manson. In earlier years he was a builder and carpenter. He is survived by his wife, Nellie Frank and one son, Crawford.

He was a member of Knox Church, Acton, and the funeral service was conducted by his minister, Rev. R. H. Armstrong, at the Rumsey Funeral Home in Acton. Pallbearers were John Moore, Goldie Gillies, Robert Dredge, Herbert Dredge, Ben Robertson and William McDonald. Interment was in Fairview Cemetery, Acton.

POST OFFICE ARRANGES EARLY MAIL SORTING

In spite of the hour advance next week when Daylight Saving Time starts, mail will be sorted at the usual time in Georgetown Post Office.

Postmaster Gordon Cousins tells us that arrangements have been made to have the mail from the east, which comes out from Toronto on the night train, in the post office shortly after eight in the morning, and all first class mail will be sorted by nine o'clock each morning.