

L.S.D. J. 100-73, 171. 76/1

TALKING POINTS RE. "OPERATION PREPAREDNESS"

Legion members will have to answer many questions on this problem - beside their own ideas the following information may help.

In May 1948 at Saskatoon the Legion, recognising the growing danger, passed resolutions regarding compulsory military service. Between Conventions Dominion Council pressed these resolutions with negative results.

At the Convention in September 1950 the Total Preparedness Resolution was passed somewhat along the lines of the Legion's Call for Total War in 1940. This resolution was broad in its scope and gave the Legion Council wide authority to press for maximum effort under whatever circumstances might arise. The Resolution was wired to the Prime Minister in its entirety the day it was passed. The wire was acknowledged.

Immediately after the Convention a committee of Council was formed to consider a presentation to the Cabinet in November. This Committee reported to the Council meeting in November and after consideration a presentation was decided on within the ambit of the Total Preparedness Resolution picking out what appeared to be the immediate absolute necessities which the country should and could undertake as preliminary steps toward Total Preparedness.

The chief steps recommended were:

1. National Registration
2. Compulsory service in the reserves.

No action whatsoever has been taken by the Government to implement either of these requests in spite of the steadily deteriorating situation.

Some further representations were made with negative results and it was then decided that the Legion's responsibility to its country did not permit any relaxation of effort and on that basis "Operation Preparedness" was conceived and is before you.

The brief is self-explanatory but in discussions which Legion members will have with the public two points may come up:

The first:

The Legion's statement that there are at present insufficient *supplies* to equip and build up a Reserve Force.

The Government has made a statement on this to the following effects:

- (a) That there are 50,000 suits of battle dress available;
- (b) That possibly the Legion's belief of shortages was based on an Army order of last November which stated that due to the necessity of supplying the Permanent Force there would be shortages in boots for Reserve recruiting until March, and further stated that as there had been little difficulty in any event as all units were below strength and recruiting only slowly.
- (c) That tremendous sums of money were being spent on ships, aircraft and new equipment.

In answer to (a) it could be pointed out that 50,000 suits of battle dress, allowing two suits to a man and 10% wastage for fitting would only equip approximately one operational division - and surely we should have that much reserve in the event of emergency full scale mobilization.

In answer to (b) the explanation that in fact no difficulties have arisen because the units concerned were well below strength and recruiting only slowly makes the whole point and urgency of our drive even more obvious.

In answer to (c) the mere fact that huge amounts of money are being spent on highly technical equipment of an extremely complicated nature emphasizes and re-emphasizes that we are going to need men and more men to operate and service these materials.

The second:

Legion members will find themselves in debates on the need for and desirability of actual conscription.

Conscription, compulsory service, call it what you will, all mean exactly the same thing.

Compulsory service is necessary in Canada to-day because our present armed strength is woefully weak and never would come up to the requirements by voluntary service alone.

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Why do we need armed strength?

1. All the democratic countries stand in mortal peril.
2. We should not depend on someone else to defend us.
3. We have made solemn undertakings under both the UN and North Atlantic Pact and have not the strength to live up to them.
4. Dealing with the people with whom we must deal it is essential to lead from strength not from weakness.
5. There is so little time and we are wide open.
6. We already have forces in the field and they must not lack for reinforcements. It is not good enough that these men should have to depend on such thinking people as are willing to make the necessary sacrifices.
7. Universal basic training would save many lives if hostilities develop on a large scale. In knowledge of these matters lies safety both for the country and for the individual citizen soldier who has that knowledge.
8. Do not be deluded into thinking it can't happen here - other countries too numerous to mention have been snared by such illusions.
9. A piece-meal approach will only let our strength be nibbled away - the times demand a total plan shared as equally as possible by every citizen.
10. We must have a force in being, not on paper, we need men in arms, men in tanks, men in aircraft, men behind the big guns, we must be prepared to fight as well as produce.
11. A force in being is a deterrent to aggression - nothing else will do.
12. Compulsory service is the only way we are going to create these forces and as veterans of two wars we believe, in any event, that it is the only fair way. At the end of it all the country will have more self esteem than it otherwise would have had.
13. All this is the surest way of preventing war, if there is a way, if not, then we are in an immeasurably better position.

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14. Statistics and Facts:

Our present armed forces are possibly 62,000, if they were proportionate to England they would be 300,000, to the United States 260,000.

Reserve Forces 1949-50 about 15,000 less than they were in 1938-39.

Iceland and ourselves are the only two nations in the Atlantic Pact which have no conscription.

Oceans no longer protect us - ^{our} cities are open to bombing to-day.

Remember our job is not to attack this government or any government, our job is to sell the public and the public's representatives on an urgent and critical situation.

Regardless of what happens in Korea our basic peril, and therefore the need for all-out preparedness, will not have changed in any way.

IN LAUNCHING OPERATION PREPAREDNESS, THE LEGION SEEKS TO EMBARRASS NONE AND HAS NO POLITICAL AXE TO GRIND. INSTEAD WE BELIEVE THAT THE STAGE HAS BEEN REACHED IN CANADA'S HISTORY WHERE IN CRISES OF THIS NATURE, POLITICAL CONSIDERATION MUST BE ABANDONED AND THE NATION'S WELFARE MADE THE PRIMARY CONSIDERATION OF ALL CITIZENS AND ORGANIZATIONS.

WE MAKE NO ATTEMPT TO SUGGEST DETAILED METHODS BY WHICH OUR THREE POINT PROGRAMME SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED.

WE SEEK TO ALARM NONE. WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO ACQUAINT OUR FELLOW CITIZENS WITH WHAT WE BELIEVE TO BE THE ESSENTIAL TRUTHS ABOUT OUR NATION'S STATE OF PREPAREDNESS.

COMPULSORY TRAINING IN THE RESERVE FORCES WILL UNDOUBTEDLY PRESENT THE GREATEST PROBLEMS BUT WE SUBMIT THAT WITH OUR LIVES, OUR ALTARS, OUR HOMES AND OUR WAY OF LIFE AT STAKE, NONE OF THE PROBLEMS WILL PROVE INSURMOUNTABLE.

WE REALIZE THAT A PROGRAMME OF NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS WILL COST A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT. WE BELIEVE THAT OUR CANADIAN WAY OF LIFE IS WORTH WHATEVER IT COSTS.

THE SENTIMENT OF THIS ORGANIZATION CANNOT BE MORE ACCURATELY EXPRESSED THAN IN THE WORDS OF OUR GRAND PRESIDENT:

*Inevitably, large-scale military preparation by Canada

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*will interfere greatly with our normal activities
and will consume a high proportion of our national
income. Costs will go up. Taxes will go up.
The availability of things we would like to have
will go down. But, to a nation, a temporary
high cost of living is as nothing compared to the
permanent high cost of dying.*

SUGGESTED MATERIAL FOR "TOWN HALL"

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19TH, 1951.

SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION:

"SHOULD WE HAVE A COMPULSORY MILITARY PROGRAMME NOW"

Mr. Perkins:

I would like first to make it abundantly clear what the compulsory military programme is that the Legion is asking for now. It is for compulsory training in the Reserve Units only. It is not all-out conscription for a large standing army.

All-out conscription would have to come if there were total war, but, in the meantime, we are suggesting this plan of compulsory training in the Reserves to give us as good a defence as we can afford without economic dislocation.

We are sure that right now we need better defences than we have and that this condition can be properly and economically established by compulsory military training in reserve formations. Such training would go far toward equipping the youth of Canada to defend themselves and their country in time of need and also provide a force in keeping with our responsibilities, one that can be quickly mobilized in the event of war.

You may ask "But what of our Reserve Forces to-day? Are they not in being and available?" Ask any reserve unit officer or man and he will speedily tell you the facts: The strength is a paper strength; That a small percentage of officers, less N.C.O.'s and a scattering of men and no present evidence of any increased enlistment. The resolution of the CONFERENCE OF DEFENCE ASSOCIATIONS, being the Committee of members of all Reserve Units, best describes the situation. This resolution was presented to the Ministry of National Defence last week and on this point stated as follows:

at least of 2 ex forces money

Mr. Perkins

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To give you an idea of what that means in figures the total reserve in 1938-39 was 51,418 and in 1948-49 was only 36,311. In other words, our reserve forces were some 15,000 less a year ago than they were ten years ago.

The view is expressed that regardless of this dangerous situation we simply have not the men to spare from industry for service in the reserve army.

I take two very strong exceptions to that point of view.

We have no right to assume or expect that others will fight for us. We must keep our own guard up.

In the second place reserve training can be carried on without serious dislocation of industry. It, of course, involves at least one evening a week; it involves time that young Canadians might otherwise spend in the movies or other recreation. But we believe and feel very strongly that Canadians are prepared to do this if a fair load, without exceptions, is placed on everybody.

Finally, I wish to emphasize most strongly that the Canadian Legion is, and always has been, a completely non-political organization but we do feel it our duty and right and our responsibility to bring before the public of Canada the very real danger in which they stand and to ask for compulsory service in the Reserves, which is a practical and logical plan and a measure that we can give that same public reasonable protection and a fighting chance.

In closing I wish to quote from "Canada's Defence Programme, 1949-50" - issued under authority of Hon. Brooke Claxton, Minister of National Defence:

"The reserve forces provide the means to permit the fulfillment of the equally indispensable functions of the citizen as both soldier and civilian. Increasing size and carefully directed training make this citizen army a vital part of Canada's defence."

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Town Meeting of the Air - January 19, 1951.

Speaker - Alderman Wilson

Mr. Moderator, worthy speakers, ladies and gentlemen:

My position on the question before us tonight is an emphatic YES. I believe in compulsory military service in the reserve forces for all able bodied men.

My colleague, Mr. Perkins, has stressed the practical side of a plan for compulsory reserve training, and I shall deal with the question that we as a nation should, for the benefit of morale, national security, and pulling our weight amongst the member nations of the Atlantic Pact, call upon our Government to institute a military training programme without delay.

In reviewing the turn of events in Europe and Asia during these post war days, who can deny that the freedom loving peoples of all democratic nations stand in mortal peril. To our regret the dark clouds of war are gathering to blank out the sunshine of peace which we as Canadians thought was ours. Should the present conflict spread beyond its confined limits, and our Pacific or Northern frontiers be threatened, no self respecting Canadian would think that we should depend upon friendly nations to be our sole defence.

I would point out that Canada has made solemn commitments under both the U.N. and North Atlantic Pacts, and I submit that if called upon suddenly, we have not the strength to live up to our obligations. Canada and Iceland stand alone amongst the member nations of the Atlantic Pact who have not implemented some form of selective compulsory military training. If, some morning, we should be shocked into the sudden realization that Canada is at war, that our people and our Canadian way of life is threatened, we at least know who our enemy will be. With this knowledge it is essential that our defence lead from strength, and not from our present weakness.

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Already we have forces in the field, as a matter of fact in the firing line, and they must not lack for reinforcements. Who is there amongst us that would say - "It is good enough that these men should depend alone upon volunteers who are willing to make the necessary sacrifices."

Universal basic training would save many lives if hostilities develop on a large scale. In a knowledge of these matters lies safety, both for the country and the individual citizen soldier who has been trained. It is a grievous error for Canadians to be deluded into thinking "it can not happen here" -- other countries, too numerous to mention, have been snared by such illusions.

~~Under~~
~~Upon~~ present conditions Canada requires a trained military force in being. Not a ghost army on paper -- we need men trained to bear arms, men trained to man tanks, men trained to handle aircraft and trained to operate our ships. Canadians must, if the occasion should arise, be prepared to fight as well as produce. We must keep in mind that a force in existence is a deterrent to aggression. Appeasement, soft meaningless words will not suffice.

In my remarks I seek to alarm no one. I believe, I support, and I congratulate the Canadian Legion in their National effort to acquaint my fellow citizens with what they believe to be the essential truths about our nation's state of National preparedness.

We must all realize that a programme of National preparedness will cost a tremendous amount, but I simply put the question to you "Is not the defence of our Canadian way of life worth whatever it may cost?"

As solemnly as I am able and with a knowledge of the sacrifices it will entail, I say that if we are to maintain what we as a nation have attained, our freedom, our standard of living, our reputation amongst the nations, we must be prepared to fight for it, and the start of that preparation lies in compulsory reserve training.

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Remember that happiness can be only for the free, that freedom is
the sure possession of those alone who have the courage to defend it. //

I conclude with a quotation of Benjamin Franklin, to be found on
the cover of this week's Saturday Evening Post, "Let us beware of being
lulled into a dangerous security; and of being weakened by internal
contention and divisions -- of neglect in Military exercises, and
discipline, and in providing stores of munitions of war, for -- the
expenses required to prevent a war are much lighter than those that
will, if not prevented, be necessary to maintain it."

- A, Two world conflicts within generation ^{2/4}
 - A1 1st war found allies unprepared 1st onslaught through ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~main~~ ^{main} the main.
 - A2 2nd world war found Democracies unprepared Poland, Bel, Hol, Nor, Den, Greece France crushed over like tin snips

Intro
 Quote.
 Happiness can be only for the few, etc.

B today Democratic Countries stand in mortal peril.

Canadian Legion anxious that we do not repeat mistakes of the past - call upon Grit through the people of Canada for total preparedness.

read. Res. (I) & (II)

- (1) Ice Coast - north frontier threatened - do not depend upon friendly nations.
- (2) Solemn Undertaking in Atlantic & Arctic - have the strength to live up to our obligations No e.g. Canada - Iceland.
- (3) If we are at war we know now who enemy will be. Must lead from strength not present weakness.
- (4) Canada now has forces in field - must not lack re-inforcements - not good enough to depend on volunteers. Holland winter 7'44
- (5) Universal training Can save many lives. Both Civilian - and citizen soldiers. Self protection.
- (6) Be not deluded in thinking it can't happen here. Path of history shows with such nations.
- (7) Piece meal approach nibbles Saps strength. all out preparedness shared by every citizen
- (8) Require force in existence - not ghost army on paper men to man tanks, Art, Aircraft ships - fight as well as produce

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9. A force in being is a deterrent to aggression. appeasement soft words not suffice.
10. Legion effort not an attempt to embarrass Gov't nor Section of our people - Nations welfare at stake, forget party, strife combine for an all out programme of increasing strength and preparedness.
11. Cost great - Adeq way of life worth whatever the cost. Our freedom - Std of living - rep. amongst nations must be prepared to fight. Start of preparatory Comp. try in Reserve

Colonel Benj Franklin

~~"SHOULD WE HAVE A COMPULSORY MILITARY PROGRAMME NOW"~~

Mr. Wilson:

Mr. Perkins has stressed the essentially practical side of the plan for compulsory reserve training.

I should like to go a little further and tell you why we, as a nation, from every conceivable point of view, moral and practical, must immediately get on with this task.

1. All the democratic countries stand in mortal peril. ✓
2. We should not depend on someone else to defend us. ✓
3. We have made solemn undertakings under both the UN and North Atlantic Pact and have not the strength to live up to them. *Canada a Dechand - Proov Edit.* ✓
4. Dealing with the people with whom we must deal it is essential to lead from strength, not from weakness. ✓
5. There is so little time and we are wide open.
6. We already have forces in the field and they must not leak for reinforcements. It is not good enough that these men should have to depend on ^{alone} such thinking people as ~~are~~ ^{are} willing to make the necessary sacrifices. ✓
7. Universal basic training would save many lives if hostilities develop on a large scale. In knowledge of these matters lies safety both for the country and for the individual citizen soldier who has that knowledge. *of Self protection* ✓
8. Do not be deluded into thinking it can't happen here - other countries too numerous to mention have been snared by such illusions. ✓
9. A piece-meal approach will only let our strength be nibbled away - the times demand a total plan shared as equally as possible by every citizen. ✓
10. We must have a force in being, not paper, we need men in arms, men in tanks, men in aircraft, men behind the big guns, we must be prepared to fight as well as produce. ✓

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Mr. Wilson

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- 11. A force in being is a deterrent to aggression - nothing ~~will~~ will do.
- 12. All this is the surest way of preventing war, if there is a way: if not, then we are in an immeasurably better position.
- 13. ~~Germany no longer protect us; our cities are open to bombing to-day.~~ *can't Borne's Para Troop*

asking for compulsory reserve training
In launching operations ~~preparedness~~, the Legion seeks to

~~embarrass~~ none and has no political axe to grind. Instead we believe that the stage has been reached in Canada's history where in crises of this nature, political consideration must be abandoned and the nation's welfare made the primary consideration of all citizens and organizations.

We make no attempt to suggest detailed ~~methods~~ *ways* by which our three point programme should be implemented.

We seek to alarm none. We are attempting to acquaint our fellow citizens with what we believe to be the essential truths about our nation's state of preparedness.

Compulsory training in the reserve forces will undoubtedly present the greatest problems but we submit that with our lives, our alters, our homes and our way of life at stake, none of the problems will prove insurmountable.

We realize that a programme of national preparedness will cost a tremendous amount. We believe that our Canadian way of life is worth whatever it costs.

We are all Canadians here - by the sacrifice of our comrades in two wars, by the energy and pioneering spirit between and before the wars, we have built a great nation.

As solemnly as I am able, and with a knowledge of the sacrifice it will entail, I say that if we are to maintain what *amongst the people of the world is the* we have won, we must be prepared to fight for it and the start of that preparation lies in compulsory reserve training.

*P.D. no 9 son, 1 daughter
franklin D. Wilson Jr.*

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CONSCRIPTION

Conscription for the armed services is the only sensible, fair and equitable means of raising and maintaining forces necessary to maintain law and order, and play our rightful part in the United Nations.

A proper form of conscription makes defence of ones country obligatory for all citizens irrespective of race or creed, provided they can pass the medical standards.

Conscription, to some extent, prevents over-enthusiastic citizens from sacrificing too much themselves and involving their families in what might be an unjust sacrifice.

Conscription for the armed forces is the only fair way these forces can be maintained, for it must be remembered that generally speaking men in the forces do not receive as high pay as do men in civilian occupations, and eventually their chances of losing life or limb are much greater than that of the civilian.

Conscription is a fair and just way of raising the necessary defensive or offensive forces.

Conscription is an ORDERLY method of maintaining our armed forces.

Under conscription the necessary numbers of people are continually available and can be allotted in the required numbers to the various branches of the services.

Conscription plays no favorites.

Conscription tends towards producing good, well-trained N. C. O.'s and Officers.

Conscription is less costly to the country.

Conscription, properly administered, would not enlist men with families or with large families, unless the situation was such that other classes were already occupied.

Conscription is the only sound method of completing the armed forces of today whose ranks must be composed mostly of young, verile men and women whose minds are free from family cares and worries.

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Conscription properly administered would mean that every healthy Canadian citizen would be required to spend some part of his life in the service of his country.

Conscription properly administered should unify Canada.

Conscription would have a good effect on the morale of the people at home. Mothers and sweethearts would realize their loved ones had been duly and properly called to serve their country. Under the volunteer system there are times when doubt arises in the minds of a mother or wife as to whether or not the volunteer is not perhaps relieved to get away from his home responsibilities. I do not suggest that it is true in many cases; but, nevertheless, thoughts such as that cannot be good for home morale.

Conscription is the method used by nearly all countries today.

Conscription is orderly and systematic. A voluntary system tends to create chaos.

Conscription enables a supreme command to accelerate or decrease the inflow to the services as required.

Conscription eliminates guess work.

Conscription supplies the forces with the required professional and technical men in a sensible organized basis.

Conscription is not something to be ashamed of. As pointed out above, it is fair, it is equitable, it is organization.

Conscription at this time in Canada is an absolute necessity.

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When talking of conscription for the forces, particularly with conditions as they are in the world today, it should always be borne in mind that conscription for the forces is not the only form of control and organization which must be rapidly brought into effect.

Every free country today must systematically mobilize all her forces, spiritual, natural, man-power, etc. quickly, fairly and properly. I would commend to you most sincerely the resolution passed unanimously by eight hundred delegates of the Canadian Legion, B. E. S. L., at their Convention in Winnipeg last September. A copy of this resolution is attached.

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P. G. Barr.