

Supply—National Defence

below a minimum level the services they provide to the Canadian public.

I would also like to say, because I think it is important, that the hon. member is doing these people an injustice if he thinks they are in any way involved in public relations on behalf of the minister. That is not so. This organization is under the direction of the deputy minister and provides information for the public, so far as the department is concerned, and the three armed forces. They are very careful not to get involved in those areas which my hon. friend knows would be outside the jurisdiction of public service.

Mr. Orlikow: It is very nice to know that the minister writes all his own speeches without any assistance from the personnel of his department, if that is true. I take the minister's word in that regard, of course. He is the first minister in any government at any level that I am aware of who does not receive that kind of assistance.

The minister did a tremendous job last night in attempting to destroy all the arguments and criticisms of the opposition. Perhaps he will reply to the criticism of his department by the Auditor General who certainly cannot be accused of being politically partisan. I refer particularly to the criticism in respect of the retirement of service personnel and the method which was used to give them full pensions by dating their enlistment ages as 9, 11 and 12. It seems to me that the minister has a duty to the country to explain his side, if he has one, in this regard.

Mr. Hellyer: Mr. Chairman, I shall deal with that question later. In the meantime the Leader of the Opposition asked for information respecting the number of cars at the disposal of National Defence in Ottawa for each of the last three or four years. Cars on strength of the No. 9 transport company in 1963 were 37; in 1964, 37; in 1965, 37 and in 1966, 37.

• (7:10 p.m.)

In addition, there are three limousines on strength which are used to provide transportation for visiting heads of state and dignitaries.

Mr. Lambert: Mr. Chairman, it is very instructive for the minister to indicate that certain economies have been made in, say, the information services and to claim that this has saved the Canadian taxpayer \$1 million a year. But I think he should also disclose that in his own office the number of

[Mr. Hellyer.]

personnel has gone up from 630 to 703 and the additional salaries paid amount to \$500,000 a year. This is just a little counterbalancing. May I say that some of these additional personnel are at very senior levels. I am referring to the reorganization in the minister's office. This matter falls under item 1, Mr. Chairman; I have gone back just by way of contrast. This is a fact and I think attention should be drawn to it.

Mr. Hellyer: Mr. Chairman, the principal reason for this is the fact that the chief auditor on the civil side at headquarters has now assumed the internal auditing responsibility for the whole department. This increased staff was required by him.

Mr. Lambert: Are any of this additional staff service officers who have retired and taken on a civilian job? It is all very well to say that the headquarters personnel has been reduced in strength. The minister has claimed that this is one of the great economies that has been made. However, in so far as the exchequer is concerned, quite apart from the question of pay, it does not matter whether the man wears a service or a civilian hat, if he is still there, has a responsibility and is part of the administration at national defence headquarters.

Mr. Hellyer: If a service officer competes in a civil service examination and is successful, he is eligible for one of these jobs. In so far as the total number is concerned, if this was the point my hon. friend was trying to make, the figure I gave the other night of a reduction of over 1,000 so far was a composite one of headquarters civil and military staff.

The Chairman: Shall item 15 carry?

Mr. Churchill: No.

Mr. Dinsdale: Mr. Chairman, two questions I should like to raise concern the Associate Minister of National Defence more than the Minister of National Defence. They have to do with pension problems arising out of the program of integration which has led to certain confusion, as we have heard during this discussion, and it has resulted in one or two pension problems not clarified as to policy.

First of all, I understand that in cases of premature retirement, unless the serviceman concerned has accumulated 20 years post-war service he is not allowed to count his wartime service in calculating his pension. I do not know whether I have the details precisely accurate, but this is one of those problems that arises from time to time in other fields.