

been under review by the Department of National Defence for a long time, is now being settled.

Mr. WINCH: Is it being settled satisfactorily?

Mr. HENDERSON: The board has approved a recommendation that reimbursement of one month's rent or lease liability should be the maximum allowed except that up to three months may be authorized by the Minister to avoid individual cases of hardship. The Treasury Board decided to approve this recommendation on condition that the Department submit for approval a definite set of guidelines within six months against which individual cases for reimbursement of more than one month's liability would be judged. The board was also asked for a report at the end of the first two years on the number and cost of claims accepted and rejected which cover a liability period of more than one month. This change was promulgated in the regulations with effect from May 20, 1965. I can advise the Committee that careful records have been maintained at the Department of National Defence of the extent to which cases have been approved and I am further advised that while the reduction in the armed forces renders it difficult to pinpoint the exact savings stemming from the new regulations, the reduction in costs as the result thereof for the period from May, 1965, to February 28, 1966, has amounted to \$125,000. I am sure the outcome of this matter will recommend itself to you.

The CHAIRMAN: This is one matter that your Public Accounts Committee has studied for two or three reports. It is nice to hear such fine results as Mr. Henderson has just stated.

Mr. BIGG: I think, in this, general section 56 is wrong, is it not?

The CHAIRMAN: Paragraph 57.

Mr. BIGG: I would like to go back to paragraph 56, just for a moment. On this question of when the members of the armed forces and the Mounted Police, which come under the same regulations regarding leave the service or are transferred, it is my understanding they are arbitrarily assigned to some moving company. Sometimes these people have transportation of their own and they would be very pleased to take, shall we say, 75 per cent of the cost of moving themselves. Sometimes it is more economical to sell their furniture and repurchase it at the new location. It is my understanding they are no longer allowed to do this. I think this would be a considerable saving to the public purse as well as convenience to the members of the armed forces and the Mounted Police if they were allowed to take the 75 per cent cash settlement. Let the government go ahead and take a tender, but I think that these members should be allowed to take advantage of this opportunity in their moving, which they are not allowed to do. It would save a considerable amount of money for the government as well.

The CHAIRMAN: That is an interesting observation, Mr. Bigg.

Mr. HENDERSON: May we look into that, Mr. Bigg, and then speak to it when we discuss the 1965 report? This item will come up again there?

Mr. BIGG: It was brought to my attention by members of the armed forces.

Mr. HENDERSON: Paragraph 58.