

*Canadian Forces Act*

be glad to know that the Canadian Legion, the Y.M.C.A., the Knights of Columbus, the Salvation Army and other organizations of that kind were giving assistance, with the support of the people of Canada, not only to Canadian troops but to the troops of other nations as well.

I suggest that there is a particular reason why every step should be taken to supply Canadians with these things from Canada, the things that veterans of the last war came to expect as a matter of course. If Canadians serving outside of Canada come to look to the United States, the United Kingdom or to any other source as a place from which they can receive those things which provide comfort and entertainment, they will have, perhaps unconsciously, some feeling of dependence upon a nation other than the nation which should be the first to emphasize that we share the full burden of their maintenance overseas.

I do not think it is a good thing from the Canadian point of view to have Canadians overseas see men from the United States, the United Kingdom or any other country able to get the things they want from their own countries while Canadians are not able to have those things that they wish from Canada itself.

There is one other thing that should be emphasized at this time. I emphasize it in the light of the unqualified undertaking that was given on May 31 that if arrangements could not be made to provide these things through the United Kingdom or the United States authorities the Canadian government would set up its own special agencies if that were necessary. Christmas is now just over a month away and if there is one particular season of the year—every veteran knows this—when young men away from home have a great longing for things from home, it is at that particular time.

In addition to having positive assurance today that these things will be carried out on this occasion, we should be informed in most definite and clear terms as to just what the Canadian government is planning to do in order to make it clear to Canadians in Korea, Europe or anywhere else outside of Canada that the people of Canada through the government of Canada are remembering them at this Christmas season, which means so much to every one of us.

**Mr. Angus MacInnis (Vancouver East):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to add my voice to that of the hon. members who have already spoken on this question. This is certainly not important from a financial point of view, but it is most important from the point of view of the morale and morals, if you like, of our

[Mr. Drew.]

troops in Korea. I did not hear all the remarks of the leader of the opposition (Mr. Drew) but I certainly agree with his concluding remarks, not necessarily what he said about Christmas but what he said about the desirability of Canadian troops not seeing other troops enjoying certain small amenities that they themselves cannot get. The government should take this matter under advisement, not merely to consider it but to do something about it at once and accept the assistance offered by the various organizations that are so anxious to help.

I have had no actual military experience, but I have read about what happened in the various wars we have participated in. I do not believe there has been any war where the conditions for the troops have been as bad as they are in Korea in the present conflict. We cannot complain if certain things happen about which we may feel ashamed if we do not do our part to provide entertainment for the troops when they are not engaged in actual warfare. I cannot think of anything that would be more injurious to a person, both mentally and physically, if after an arduous task has been completed than to have nothing to occupy his time or entertain and satisfy his mind.

I think the members of the various groups who have spoken have been most restrained in their remarks. I suggest to the parliamentary assistant that he impress upon his superior the feeling of the house with respect to this question. I am sure that those on his side of the house have the same feeling in the matter.

**Mr. A. J. Brooks (Royal):** Mr. Speaker, I do not feel I can add very much to what has been said already regarding this very important matter affecting our soldiers in Korea. It seems to me that when we have these different organizations, which proved themselves so useful in the first and second world wars, we should certainly make some use of them. If we were building up something new and taking organizations without experience, that might be a different matter, and there might be some reason for hesitation; but here we have four fine organizations which in two wars have catered to our soldiers and have brought great comfort not only to them but I am sure to their people at home.

I had some experience myself in the first and second world wars, and I know the great value of the services of the Y.M.C.A., the Salvation Army, the Knights of Columbus and the Legion to the men. I understood the parliamentary assistant to say there was some idea of using officers in the units in place of these services, that officers were to be trained to do this work. I think the