

Canadian Forces Act

When the Minister of National Defence made his reply he did not deal with that particular suggestion. He covered many other matters which had been brought up by the various hon. members who had taken part in the discussion, but he did not say whether the department would be willing to have an investigation made by an independent body. I believe that the situation is sufficiently important to warrant such an investigation. Yesterday we had a report of an interview given by the Primate of the Anglican Church upon his return from Korea, and in today's press we find a report from Montreal to the effect that yesterday the Canadian Council of Churches was considering the same question. Apparently the representatives present at that council meeting were much concerned about this situation.

There can be no doubt that conditions in Korea are very grim indeed and it looks as though they would become even more so in the months that lie ahead. Our troops in Europe will also need services of this kind. I ask the parliamentary assistant whether the government is willing to send out an investigating committee composed of people who had experience in providing welfare services during the last war but who are not in the Department of National Defence. There are officials in other departments who had extensive experience in such work during the last war, and then in addition there are the men in the voluntary agencies I have referred to, particularly the Canadian Legion, the Y.M.C.A., the Knights of Columbus and the Salvation Army, who also had extensive experience in the last war in this type of service and who made a splendid contribution. I ask whether it is not possible to have this whole situation checked up at once by an independent committee constituted as I have suggested. I see no reason why that committee could not be made up of a combination of men from other government departments and representatives from the national organizations I have mentioned. I would like the parliamentary assistant to indicate the attitude of the government toward that suggestion.

Mr. Campney: Of course I cannot express the views of the government in connection with the representations which have been made, but I would call the hon. member's attention to the statement made yesterday by the Minister of National Defence during the debate on the resolution. The minister dealt with various aspects of welfare activities and also with a good many of the observations that were made by my hon. friend. At the conclusion of his remarks, as reported

on page 1056 of *Hansard*, the minister outlined the reason why the government had maintained the position it had taken up to the present time, and in that connection he said:

I have mentioned the situation as we understand it. I go much further than that and say that if something needs to be done at any stage, then we shall see that it is done and done in the most effective way possible. So far I am informed by the officers who have been there that they do not believe more could be done under the circumstances.

I can only add that the representations made by the hon. member for Vancouver-Quadra will be brought to the attention of the minister for further consideration.

Mr. Green: Yesterday, as reported on page 1043 of *Hansard*, the minister was asked a question about the type of services given by the Salvation Army to the British troops in Korea. That question arose out of an article in the *Globe and Mail* which contained a picture of a Salvation Army officer providing tea or refreshments of a similar nature to the troops. Previously the statement had been made that there were no Salvation Army officers or officers of any similar voluntary organization in Korea with the commonwealth forces. When faced with the article in the *Globe and Mail* yesterday the minister said that he would have an investigation made, and I should like to know if that has been done.

Mr. Campney: In referring to this matter yesterday the minister undertook to see that the statement would be checked up. He said that he would ask officials of his department to communicate with the British authorities. I understand that that is being done, but that no report has been received as yet.

Mr. Diefenbaker: About two weeks ago, as reported on page 477 of *Hansard*, the minister replied to certain questions asked by the hon. member for Brandon, and also pointed out that I had asked certain questions of which notice had just been given. Later on in the same day, on orders of the day, as reported on page 481 of *Hansard*, I asked certain questions the answers to which have not yet been properly clarified. Those questions had to do with the Y.M.C.A. in particular, but reference was made also to the Salvation Army.

I have had several letters from men serving in Korea asking why it is the Department of National Defence is denying the men serving there the services of the Y.M.C.A. and the Salvation Army. All of us who have been in the armed forces know the work that these organizations did in the first great war and in the second great war. On October 29 I asked the minister whether it was so, that the national council of the