

we will follow the same procedure this year. It gives us the necessary procedural reference to hear these people. If that is the wish of the committee, perhaps we might move to item 449.

449. District Services—Administration— \$3,271,281

Mr. SPEAKMAN: I would like to ask one question under campaign stars, medals and so forth. Has the department ever considered what the cost would be of including on the medal the name and the regimental number of each recipient of these medals.

Mr. LALONDE: Do you mean to engrave the medals?

Mr. SPEAKMAN: Yes.

Mr. LALONDE: The decision not to engrave was made prior to 1949. I do not think very many of us were there at the time. I am not sure whether we have an estimate of the cost, but at that time it was decided not to do that, presumably not because of the cost but rather because of the delay. Of course, at this stage it would be impossible to call back all the medals and have them engraved.

Mr. SPEAKMAN: What I have in mind is this. At that time I think a good deal of the reluctance in applying for the medals perhaps was engendered by the fact that they were completely indistinguishable. They were just medals and had no connection with the persons who had received them. I know, speaking of my own branch, which takes in an area including over one thousand veterans all of whom are not members, that there was a very considerable feeling that the department or the government—never mind who was responsible—were being, shall we say, a little narrow in their view. I wonder if an estimate could be worked out on the cost with a view to doing it on a local basis and having the bills submitted to the department? Could you obtain for us an idea of the cost?

Mr. LALONDE: I could try.

Mr. SPEAKMAN: I would like to have it because it is something which comes up every year in our Legion branch.

Mr. STEARNS: Supposing there were three million medals and the minimum cost was about \$8 per medal, it would be \$24 million.

Mr. LALONDE: I have no idea.

Mr. STEARNS: I am guessing that. If it were \$24 million I think it would be a lot better to put it right in the department for the benefit of the veterans.

Mr. SPEAKMAN: If it runs into that amount of money it is, of course, out of the question.

Hon. ALFRED JOHNSON BROOKS (*Minister of Veterans Affairs*): It would be rather a case of locking the door after the horse is out.

Mr. MUTCH: I believe that the estimate was ten cents per letter or numeral; it was fantastic.

Mr. FANE: The medals in the first war were stamped; they were not engraved. They were stamped on the outside edge. That should not cost as much as engraving.

Mr. WEICHEL: Are these medals available through the army and navy stores?

Mr. LALONDE: They are not supposed to be.

Mr. WEICHEL: Every once in a while we hear of someone wearing a medal to which he is not entitled.

Mr. LALONDE: I suppose some medals have found their way into the pawnshops. Even if they had been engraved I do not think it would have made any