

closed also, so I don't know as yet what is going to happen, as most of the boys are posted to Toronto. So that is the situation."

Mr. MacNICOL: Toronto is not lost.

Mr. ARCHIBALD: He goes on to say that he left home, that is Saskatoon; he was posted from Uplands to the station in London; he went on to Aylmer; when he went to Aylmer he found the station closed; and he asks, "what are H.Q. doing, anyway?"

This letter has its amusing side, but realize the position of the "Joe". That lad wants to leave the army. His brother's health is all shot from being in the army; his old man is too old to work the farm; yet he cannot get a discharge. That is the sort of thing that is going on.

I should like to compliment the minister on the prompt action which was taken on behalf of the boys in the photo wing at Rockcliffe. Between two o'clock in the afternoon and eight o'clock at night seventy boys were discharged. That is what I call action. Special provisions to release them were made by the air force, with an officer carrying a blank clearance—something new in air force procedure—and they kept the office open until eight o'clock. This M.T. section is directly related to all other sections; for instance, those with station wagons and so on that officers use. Let us see what is going on at Rockcliffe. We have a section there known as the test and development section. There are roughly eighty-four L.A.C.'s, I think, including a corporal. They are confined to a room, a smoke-room the size of my office, the better part of the day. They have nothing to do; they are not allowed to use their talents in hobbies or amusements, but they have to appear busy. Here is an example of how it is done: On November 14, ten men were delegated to put up five storm-windows. They spent one hour at it in the morning and all the afternoon, so as to keep busy during the C.O.'s inspection. But I have gone all through this before. Again I would like to say that it is amusing, but the boys in that section are on the point of open revolt, and the information given to me is that the only thing which is holding them down is that they are scared of losing their gratuities. That is the whip hand or the club which is used to keep them in line. I would like the Minister of National Defence for Air to investigate that section and meet the men without the benefit of the officers and senior N.C.O.'s, and see what answers he gets. How many officers are out there compared with the men in that section? There is one commissioned officer and one senior N.C.O. for

every three men. As I have said, the men are confined in that smoke-room all day; they are supposed to keep busy and they are not allowed to play. But the officers are out shooting rats on the Rockcliffe dump; they can amuse themselves, but the "Joes" cannot. Many of those boys have jobs to go back to but cannot get their discharge. Yet the Minister for Air saw to it by special provision that seventy men were released all of a sudden in one day. Why cannot these others have the same treatment handed to them?

I have thought it my duty to bring up these matters. Ordinarily I would have taken up such personal complaints with the minister, and I have no doubt that he would have cooperated in solving them. But the point I make is that we are going to add expense to expense unless this question is solved. If discharges are allowed to remain in the hands of permanent force officers it will not be solved. It is to their interest to keep the men in the force, because they have a meal-ticket to look after, a status to maintain, and the way to do this is to have a certain establishment under their command.

I would suggest that a committee of this house be set up to investigate these complaints. I have had letters all the way from Patricia Bay to Nova Scotia on this matter, and the writers are "burning up". You will not be able to hold down this situation forever. They will "blow", just like the navy did in Halifax. You can only stand so much and then you take the law in your hands. As one boy pointed out to me, "I don't want to see this, but it seems the only sort of action which will bring the thing to public attention."

It may be that all this is not directly in line with the subject of fuel costs for M.T., but the trucks are servicing the men, and the men are doing nothing. It is a vicious merry-go-round; I suppose that some people lose on the swings they gain on the roundabouts. I put the matter before the minister for his consideration. I would especially like to see this situation at Rockcliffe cleaned up, and I hope his attention will extend to other stations in Canada.

Mr. GIBSON (Hamilton West): The incident which my hon. friend has just given proves, of course, that the Royal Canadian Air Force is not perfect: however, I think we have been doing very well. When you consider that over 30,000 men a month have been demobil-