

the local gaol, not sent to an internment camp, until he has had an opportunity of stating whether he objects to internment, or the thirty days' delay has expired. If he objects to internment he is not sent to a concentration camp until one of these advisory boards has tried the issue. Hon. members know now that at the opening of the session and every four weeks while the house is in session a report of the number of cases dealt with under section 21 is required to be filed, and it has been my good fortune to be able to report to this house that not one recommendation of an advisory board has been disregarded.

The fourth representation was that a recognized representative of the trade unions be appointed as a member of the advisory committees under regulation 22, and that one other member be a person who has held high judicial office. A new advisory committee has recently been appointed, because we found there were a large number of cases still to be dealt with. Hon. members may believe that I feel just as keenly as any one of them how unfortunate it is to detain anyone who should not be interned, and I have felt that it was most urgent that these cases be considered with as great expedition as is consistent with a fair hearing and a proper decision. A new committee has recently been appointed to help expedite the work of hearing these appeals as it were, of considering the cases of those who are still interned, and it was our good fortune to be able to secure the services of a representative member of the trade unions to serve on this additional committee.

With respect to that part of the recommendation that one member of the committee be a person who has held high judicial office, the chairmen of the three committees now in operation are: one a county court judge, one a former county court judge, and the third a member of the magistrate's court of the province of Quebec.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Would the minister say that is a high judicial office?

Mr. ST. LAURENT: No.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): They do not measure up.

Mr. ST. LAURENT: No, these are not gentlemen who have occupied high judicial office. But so far we have found that the way in which they have performed their duties has been very satisfactory. The situation with respect to high judicial office throughout several of the provinces is such that it would be difficult to get the services of such men for these committees unless we increase the numbers of members of the courts. There

are already members of some of our high courts serving in various capacities in war activities, and if we were to require more of our high court judges to serve in this work it would be essential to increase the number of appointees. It is an unfortunate fact that several members of our courts in several of the provinces are in poor health. If we took from those performing the ordinary judicial functions at the present time greater numbers than are now engaged upon war activities here, additional appointments would have to be made, and it has not seemed that the services being performed by the committees presided over by the gentlemen who now preside over them are not in fact satisfactory.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

### After Recess

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. ST. LAURENT: Mr. Speaker, the fifth representation made by this Civil Liberties' Association was that on hearings before advisory committees the Department of Justice should be represented by counsel of high standing. This was given careful consideration, and in view of the fact that many of the persons who are detained are not able to have counsel representing them it is not considered desirable that counsel should represent the crown. Further it is considered that such procedure would probably cause undue delay. A large number of these cases have still to be considered, and we are trying to expedite them as much as possible.

The sixth representation was that fuller disclosure of the facts with regard to cases of detention should be made to parliament in greater detail than at present. The provisions of the third subsection of regulation 21 requiring information to be furnished to parliament are similar to those in force in the United Kingdom, and they require that the Minister of Justice shall at the beginning of each session of parliament, and every four weeks thereafter during each session, make reports to parliament showing the action taken under those regulations, which reports shall show the number of persons detained under orders made pursuant to the regulation, and the number of cases, if any, in which the Minister of Justice declined to follow the advice of any advisory committee which may be appointed under regulation 22. These reports are being filed in due course. If, as a result of the investigation of this special committee, it is thought desirable that fuller information should be supplied to parliament, and if the committee, after considering all