

Canadian Forces Act

all French Canadians, since they have aroused unfavourable comments in some newspapers in the province of Quebec and other parts of the country. I do not think that his remarks have contributed anything to the cause of the French Canadians or to national unity.

Mr. Graydon: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of National Defence. Would he tell me the French equivalent for "damn lie"?

Mr. Claxton: Those words are not mine.

Mr. Gauthier (Portneuf): It is "un mensonge éhonté".

(Text):

Mr. Hees: Mr. Chairman, I should like to associate myself with the remarks of the hon. members for Vancouver-Quadra, Cape Breton South and Kamloops regarding our desire to have a clear picture from the minister with respect to auxiliary services in Korea at the present time. As the minister knows only too well, being a distinguished old soldier himself, a soldier's worst enemy is not fear: it is boredom and discomfort. I think probably there never was a battleground in which that was as true as it is in Korea. During the last war when soldiers were not fighting, at least there were places to which they could go when on leave, and where they could be reasonably comfortable. Of course in Korea there are simply no places to go.

I suggest that for that reason it is most important that our troops out there have the very best auxiliary services that can be provided. They can be provided on the brigade level because I know they were during the last war. I happened to be a brigade major myself, and had a good deal to do with operating the auxiliary services. For this reason I know they worked satisfactorily at the brigade level.

Those services also did a tremendous job of raising the morale of all troops with whom they worked, by way of providing facilities for sports, as well as moving pictures, canteens and the like. I would be very much interested to hear from the minister what is being done by way of providing auxiliary services for our troops in Korea at the present time.

Mr. Herridge: Mr. Chairman, reading this resolution one realizes that his remarks under it could be almost as wide as they would be under the first item in the minister's estimates. However, I intend to speak only briefly, and in doing so I would support the remarks of the hon. members for Vancouver-Quadra, Cape Breton South and Kamloops with respect to the necessity for auxiliary

[Mr. Gauthier (Portneuf).]

services and recreational facilities for our troops in Korea. I hope when the minister replies he will tell the committee exactly what is to be done to improve the conditions described.

In addition to that, I was interested to hear reference by the hon. member for Cape Breton South to the correspondence he has had with various people who are affected by the fact that their husbands have failed to assign pay. I am informed there is no regulation in effect at the present time to compel a serviceman to assign pay. I have received a few letters from wives who are seriously affected by the fact that their husbands have refused to assign pay. My information is that it is up to the wife, under the present regulations, to apply to the courts for an order. I do suggest this matter should receive careful consideration, and that the regulations should be changed so that a woman cannot be left under those circumstances, and would not be compelled to use the ordinary courts of law to get the income she requires to live on.

I am one who appreciates the good work done by members of the reserve forces. I know that in many smaller places it is a discouraging job, and is not something receiving publicity from day to day. The work of the people in the reserve forces does not receive the support it should. I have always been interested to watch how reserve force units function, and in travelling around the country I have been told, by men who have transferred from one unit to another, that there is a great difference between the administration in one reserve unit and that in another.

When the minister replies I would ask him to explain what latitude is allowed to the officer commanding. In some cases officers commanding have the right attitude, while in other cases one sees an altogether different attitude and a different spirit. However, I have found a great deal of difference in things that can be done and things that cannot be done.

Would the minister tell the committee if some reserve units have enlisted men to take part in sports, either on a baseball team, a hockey team or a basketball team, with the understanding that they are never to wear a uniform, and to attend only pay parades. In the past have men enlisted under those circumstances been injured while playing for a unit, or playing for Canada? The men about whom I am speaking might not take part in drills. Have any of them received pensions or disability benefits under the Pension Act?

These thoughts occurred to me when the hon. member for Cape Breton South was