

Mr. RALSTON: My hon. friend is mistaken. I was filing an answer to one hon. member with regard to a case in Montreal, the complaint being that the man had been arrested and was being persecuted by the civil police. But there was no discussion of clothing allowance.

Mr. ADAMSON: I will bring this up under the estimates of the Minister of Pensions and National Health. There is, however, one further thing I would suggest to the minister. It directly affects both ministers, and it is so important I feel it should be taken up on the estimates of the Minister of National Defence. A man in Italy is permanently wounded; he loses a foot. He is taken into a military hospital in Italy until he is well enough to travel. He is then put on a hospital ship and brought back to military hospital in Canada, and all that time he is receiving the pay and allowance of his rank. Then, after a certain period, he is boarded out of the army and sent to a Department of Pensions and National Health hospital where he is put on hospital allowance. The air force does not do that. When he is put on hospital allowance—

Mr. RALSTON: The air force has nothing to do with it.

Mr. ADAMSON: What happens is this. While still incapacitated, while still in hospital, the man is transferred to the Department of Pensions and National Health hospital and his pay is drastically reduced, particularly if he is an officer. I submit that a man, no matter how long he is in hospital, should be paid the full pay of his rank until such time as he is discharged as a walking case. You treat a man as a hero when he is overseas and when he is in a Department of National Defence hospital, but when you send him to the Department of Pensions and National Health hospital you cut his pay. If you are going to cut his pay when he is sent to that hospital it is logical that it should be stopped immediately he is wounded. I make this plea to the minister, and I make it seriously, until the man is completely discharged, well and able to enter into civilian life, keep him on the pay and allowances of his rank. Do not cut him off when you transfer him from—

Mr. RALSTON: Is my hon. friend suggesting he be kept on the strength of the army?

Mr. ADAMSON: No; I suggest his pay should be continued.

Mr. RALSTON: That is quite a different matter. My hon. friend, I am sure, admits he should be struck off the strength of the army.

Mr. ADAMSON: Yes.

Mr. RALSTON: May I remind my hon. friend that he was mistaken when he made a statement the other night on this subject, having overlooked the change which had been made in the hospital allowances given to a man hospitalized after he is discharged. I read those rates into the record at that time. I think most of the committee feels that the subject has been pretty well discussed under this item, even though it does not fall under my department. I would ask my hon. friend for the sake of regularizing the proceedings to bring this matter up under the appropriate item in the Department of Pensions and National Health estimates.

Mr. ADAMSON: I should like to say this as a final word. I feel that it is the function of the Department of National Defence to see to it that until the man is completely discharged to civilian life he should not be penalized after he has passed out of their hands into the Department of Pensions and National Health.

Mr. KNOWLES: Apropos of the well deserved compliment which the minister paid a few minutes ago to the men in the Kiska forces, I should like to take just a few minutes to ask a question. If the minister will recall my remarks of some time ago he will remember that on February 17 I discussed with him the matter of income tax deductions from these men. I was grateful for the studied hearing he gave to our representation at that time. Since I discussed the matter in the committee I have made additional representations to the minister by letter. I have also been in touch with the Minister of Finance and the Minister of National Revenue. My question is: have developments in this matter reached such a stage that the minister can tell us whether the men to whom I refer will have their full exemption in regard to income tax while they were in Kiska?

Mr. RALSTON: I repeat to my hon. friend what I said the other night, when the matter was under discussion, that full attention and full consideration was being given to the matter. When it has been decided upon, an announcement will be made. I do not think it will be very long before the announcement is made.

Mr. ROSS (Souris): Early in the discussion I asked a question about the cost of clothing for soldiers. I thought the minister was going to bring down the answer. I think the cost of clothing a soldier when he joins the army should be figured out.

After the lengthy discussion on this department I am still very much confused about our man-power problem. I read in the press