

Canadian Forces Act

ago. I am sorry I cannot share the views he expressed when he proceeded to glorify the German soldier. Certainly that statement should not go unchallenged on the floor of this house. In one breath the hon. member refers to some atrocities committed in Korea by the Chinese communists when several thousand troops were massacred, and in the next breath he proceeds to glorify the type of soldier who was proven guilty of the identical offence which he describes as a crime committed the other day. I should like to say, Mr. Chairman, that the House of Commons or any other platform should not be used to glorify anyone who has been found guilty of crimes against humanity, irrespective of whether it was done by communists on the extreme left or by nazis on the extreme right.

Mr. Adamson: If the hon. member will read my remarks he will find that I said the Germans are a military people. They appreciate soldierly behaviour; I think my words were "discipline, smartness and a high esprit de corps for regimental tradition." I said nothing about the German soldier whatsoever; and as one who has been to Dachau and what is left of Belsen now, I can assure him that I deplore—and that is a mild word—the atrocities committed by the nazis. But that does not take away from the importance of the good will of the present democratic Germany, which can be maintained or which can be created by the soldierly behaviour, which I am sure will obtain, of our 27th brigade. That is the point I was making. I was not glorifying the German soldier whatsoever—although as I think anyone who has fought against him the way I have will admit the German soldier is a first class fighter.

The Chairman: Order. I think we have allowed a good deal of latitude. I will ask hon. members to stay more closely to the resolution.

Mr. Adamson: I was only answering an accusation made against me, which I wished to refute immediately.

Mr. Blackmore: I should like to revert to the matter of pay and allowances, and to deal with it in somewhat more detail. Let us suppose an accident occurred in a family, requiring medical care and hospitalization. Under those circumstances it would seem to me that the dependents, having that extra burden to absorb, would find it next to impossible to carry on, unless some sort of arrangement were made to extend help. I realize that this problem has far-reaching

ramifications and implications. I am wondering if we could not look at this whole question once again to see what could be done about it.

Mr. Knowles: I should like to ask the minister a question in this connection. I noticed that the minister described the discussion this afternoon as being perhaps on the fringe of the terms of the resolution. What I have in mind is at least inside the perimeter, if not right at the centre of the matter. I note that the opening part of the resolution contains these words:

That it is expedient to introduce a measure to amend the National Defence Act to provide for the payment of compensation in respect of the death or disability of persons employed in or with the public service of Canada while performing functions in relation to the Canadian forces,—

Perhaps I can best illustrate the matter I have in mind by referring to a case, the particulars of which I have on my desk, including correspondence I have had with the minister. I am still interested in this case, but it also illustrates the need for making sure that the act provides for any similar cases in the future. What the hon. member for Lethbridge has just said certainly brings it to my mind.

This is the case of a chap who served in world war II and who, after the war, was in the reserve army. He was called up for active service during the time of the flood in Winnipeg, in May and June of 1950. While serving full time in that connection he met with a very serious accident. Indeed, the newspaper report I have in my hand, which deals with the accident, is headed, "Youth held as soldier near death". In other words there was a time when the life of this soldier hung in the balance. There was a possibility of a situation such as that described by the hon. member for Lethbridge, wherein he might have lost his life, with his wife and family left in dire need as a result.

The circumstances were that this soldier who, as I have already said, was at this time on full-time duty with the army, was returning home about midnight in the company of three other soldiers from the same unit. He had with him a pass authorized by his unit, and this fact is confirmed in the minister's letter to me of November 10, 1951. It appears that as these four soldiers were returning home on this occasion, after doing their work in connection with the flood, according to this dispatch in the *Winnipeg Free Press* they heard a woman's scream which had come from one of the trucks