

Mr. MITCHELL: I think it was just a slip of the tongue on the part of the Minister of Agriculture when he said it was a second call. I do not think it was deliberate. There have been a good many calls.

Mr. GRAYDON: I was not attempting to attribute anything deliberate on the part of the Minister of Agriculture. I simply wanted to get the record straight, because we have had so many figures on the man-power situation that we are inclined to view every fresh figure with a little suspicion on account of the careless manner in which they are sometimes presented, and obviously the statements by the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of Labour did not jibe.

I dealt with the general question of national selective service at some length in the remarks I made at the opening of this discussion, and I have no desire to traverse the same ground again. But there are some points on which I should like some further information. When Mr. Elliott Little resigned in November, 1942, there was a large exodus out of the department of men who had filled rather important positions under the then director of national service; and having in mind that there was at that time a change of control in national selective service, it seems to me that we should have some explanation of this exodus, I will not call it a mass migration, but there was a migration of at least from sixteen to nineteen men who left the service, following Mr. Little's resignation. A number of these men had gained some prominence in newspaper reports from time to time. One was Dr. Couper, who resigned or was transferred under circumstances previously explained by the minister so that I shall not deal with that at the moment. But I wish to point out to the minister that in a return which was brought down to the house as sessional paper No. 400 on Wednesday, June 16, 1943, I find a copy of all letters, telegrams and other communications which passed between Goldwin Smith, who had been brought here from the United States as assistant to C. F. Needham, assistant director, civilian, national selective service, and the minister or the Department of Labour. The correspondence is rather interesting. I shall not go into it in great detail, but I cite this document as evidence on the point I am making as to the position in which national selective service finds itself. True, it is not always possible to gain a sufficient footing in a department to find out exactly what is going on. Therefore, I suppose, hon. members generally have to deal with the evidence as it is produced in cases such as this. I will read to

the committee what Mr. Goldwin Smith said in his letter of April 19, 1943, after a number of pleasant letters had passed between him and the deputy minister of labour. On April 19 he writes to Mr. MacNamara, the deputy minister, as follows:

Thank you for your kind letter of this afternoon. My resignation was the result—

May I point this out, that Mr. Goldwin Smith was an unusually intelligent employee, of high standing.

Mr. MITCHELL: Who said that? Did he say that?

Mr. GRAYDON: He did not say it.

Mr. MITCHELL: That he was a highly intelligent employee of the department?

Mr. GRAYDON: Well, is the minister saying it?

Mr. MITCHELL: I have my own personal opinion.

Mr. GRAYDON: If the minister is not going to deny the statement I will let it stand at that. I notice the minister is rather hesitant, so that I imagine we will let it stand at that.

Mr. MITCHELL: I am taking the hon. gentleman's word for it.

Mr. GRAYDON: This man is very modest, but certainly, as his letter will show, he indicated in no uncertain terms what he thought national selective service was doing. He said:

My resignation was the result of a sober and increasing conviction that the work I do is of relatively minor value in the war effort.

Six weeks ago Mr. Caloren—

Who is apparently one of the senior officials of the department.

—persuaded me to delay my departure. Since that time I have continued to be a rather ineffectual angel in the corridors, my duties undefined, my responsibilities unspecified. I do not earn my salary, even though I came to national selective service aware that my financial position would be far from strengthened. It is a situation in which I cannot be content.

These are matters which throw at least some light, I think, upon the position one finds in connection with national selective service itself. I would point out that the correspondence shows clearly that the department itself did not view Mr. Goldwin Smith in any suspicious light, as the minister's rather hesitant remarks a few moments ago would seem to do. I should like the minister to give me information, though I do not ask him to do so at the moment, as to the number of these men who have resigned from the department or have been transferred since the resignation of