

security. The order in council is that the entire responsibility for prisoners of war, enemy aliens and other internees is transferred to the Department of National Defence.

Mr. ADAMSON: When was that passed?

Mr. RALSTON: One was passed on November 19, 1942, and another on January 20, 1943. The latter order in council provided for the transferring of refugees as well as prisoners of war. The Department of National Defence became responsible for guarding, discipline, the censorship of mail, the welfare of prisoners, internees and refugees, and the maintenance and operation of all camps. There was what I regarded as some divided responsibility, but that has been cured.

Mr. ADAMSON: That answers my question. The camp commandant is responsible to the district officer commanding.

Mr. GREEN: Has the director of internment operations any authority over the various camp commandants?

Mr. RALSTON: He has not.

Mr. GREEN: He has no right to move them about or discharge them or do anything of that kind?

Mr. RALSTON: No. The director of internment operations as an officer of the adjutant-general's branch has the right to go to the camps and reports direct to the adjutant-general. The usual practice is for him to consult with the district officer commanding, since he is in the district. He acts almost in the capacity of an inspector-general in regard to matters of security and the carrying out of the Geneva convention.

Mr. ADAMSON: Are representatives of the International Red Cross and the international Y.M.C.A. allowed inside the camps as well as representatives of the protecting power, the Swiss government?

Mr. RALSTON: The protecting power has the right, and the others are allowed in by mutual agreement with the detaining power.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): What pay is received by officer prisoners? Is it correct that they are paid a percentage of what they would receive if they were serving in their own army? Should they receive a promotion while a prisoner, does that automatically increase the pay which they receive from the Canadian government?

Mr. RALSTON: They are paid the amount agreed upon as between the German government, if they are German prisoners, the United Kingdom government and the Cana-

dian government. They may receive a promotion if intimation comes through their government or the protecting power.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): Does that apply in the same way to Canadian prisoners of war in Germany? Do they receive an increase in pay in the event of promotion?

Mr. RALSTON: It is not certain.

Mr. POWER: We cannot get definite information on that point. I have been trying to get it for the last eight months.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): Should we not have a quid pro quo in regard to that?

Mr. RALSTON: We have been trying for some time to have a quid pro quo in connection with prisoners of war.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): If a German prisoner receives a promotion do we have to increase his pay?

Mr. RALSTON: By agreement, if the agreement refers to the rank, the pay is increased.

Mr. HANSELL: I do not think the matter of conscientious objectors and their internment has been cleared up entirely.

Mr. RALSTON: Conscientious objectors are one thing, and internment is another. We have been somewhat confused in the discussion. The hon. member for Calgary West (Mr. Edwards) was really discussing a matter which was outside the terms of this resolution entirely, while the hon. member for York South (Mr. Noseworthy) was discussing something which was within the terms of the resolution. He was discussing those who are interned, and that is part of this vote. I have no objection under the proper circumstances to discussing the matter of conscientious objectors, but I do not think this is the item under which it should be discussed.

Mr. HANSELL: I should like to know just where I could bring in that discussion.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): Under the labour estimates.

The CHAIRMAN: Shall the item carry?
Some hon. MEMBERS: Carried.

The CHAIRMAN: The next item is dependents' supplementary grants fund, \$1,285,000.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): I believe this is the item under which we can discuss assistance given to wives who have been deserted by soldiers. I brought a case to the attention of the minister the other day, and he said he would review the matter and make a statement to the house.