

*War Appropriation—Army*

Mr. RALSTON: I can say to the hon. member for Lake Centre it is not in use in the United States, up to date.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: Is it in Great Britain?

Mr. GRAHAM: Where did the name come from?

Mr. RALSTON: I think it may be named after the man who suggested it.

Mr. ROSS (St. Paul's): This afternoon the hon. member for Témiscouata spoke about a return. A question appeared in my name on the order paper of May 13. On that occasion the minister said:

I ask the hon. member to drop the third part of this question. There can be only one reason for that question, namely to draw some inference that these men are not doing their duty.

Then, on May 20 I rose on a question of privilege in regard to the matter. The minister had imputed motives to me. Rising at that time I said—

Mr. RALSTON: That was exactly the inference the hon. member for Témiscouata drew from it.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): That might not be correct, though.

Mr. ROSS (St. Paul's): I did not hear what the minister said.

Mr. GRAYDON: He said the hon. member for Témiscouata and he were in agreement, as usual.

Mr. POULIOT: I agree with the hon. member for St. Paul's.

Mr. ROSS (St. Paul's): I rose on a question of privilege. I am sorry the minister was not in the house at the time, because the last thing I had in mind was to question whether these men were doing their duty. However, in answering my question the minister went off the handle a little bit, I thought, and made a long statement. In answering he might just as easily have given the reason why it was not wise to give the full information that was there.

Not only that, Mr. Chairman, but there was an order which had come down in the name of the hon. member for Témiscouata. I saw no harm in asking the question.

I have in my hand the answer to the question, and I find that on the headquarter's staff here there are 154 officers and 239 men who are medically fit, and between the ages of thirty and thirty-five. In the first place, some of those men very likely have come back from overseas. I do not know about that. Probably they are on the headquarters staff for a definite

[Mr. Pouliot.]

reason. Why they are there I think the country should know. Then, I am informed that many of these men would like to go overseas, and get into active service. They are given various excuses of one kind or another for being held in their positions, and they do not like it.

When one finds there are 393 of them who are medically fit, it seems strange that they should be held here. Probably they could be released, and older men take their places. Perhaps they are indispensable. I do not know. But that is a question which might very well be answered. Then, while I am on my feet there are other matters about headquarters' staff I should like to mention. After all, the running of this army, in both Canada and Great Britain, is a pretty big proposition. On the other hand, it is well known to many people that there are a great many square pegs in round holes on the headquarters staff. What is being done to straighten out that condition, and to have it run so as to eliminate rumours? Perhaps it is run as well as it possibly can be; I do not know. Is it operated economically? Are there too many people on the headquarters staff?

After all, we are spending the taxpayers' money. If we get value, we do not mind; but rumours are going round, and I believe the country would like to know more about what is going on there. For instance, how many officers and men are there on the headquarters staff? How many women are on that staff? Who looks after the staff? What kind of supervision is there? Who is in charge of the whole thing—the office manager, or the head of the whole show? Who looks after the proper spending of our money, and sees to it that there is not too much waste? Not only that; who sees that these people have a day's work to do? I have been told by many of them that they do not have enough to do, half the time, and they almost have to make work for themselves. Is there efficiency around there?

These are questions the country would like to have answered. If everything is lovely, then that is fine. But if it is not, something ought to be done to correct the condition. After all, rumours cannot be permitted to circulate without there being some contradiction, or without something being done about the matter.

Mr. RALSTON: I cannot give the hon. member the number at headquarters, because I have not the figures before me. First, with regard to officers and other ranks at headquarters between the ages of thirty and thirty-five, I will only say what I said before, namely, that those men are there on orders from their