

Mr. EULER: No; I did not say that; I said I did not know. But I am informed that they did not.

Mr. MacNICOL: I have said that more space was offered to the former government when the lease was up for renewal, and I say now that had the government inquired as to whether they could have more space, they could have had another 1,440 feet and the cost would then have been eighty cents a foot and not ninety-five cents. At 1·2 cents a foot it will take a long time to save the \$480 that the government spent in moving from one place to the other. In my humble judgment this shows very poor business methods.

Mr. BETTS: I wish to add my protest to what has been said by the hon. member for Vancouver South (Mr. Green) as to the manner in which temporary help is employed at Christmas time in my riding. In London there is an honorary committee of the veterans' assistance commission, composed of eight or nine very busy men who have given a great deal of extremely unselfish and excellent work in classifying the returned soldiers in London and establishing a register of unemployed veterans. There is a paid permanent secretary, the only member of the committee who is paid, who is on duty there all the time. That is certainly the best body for selecting temporary help from amongst the veterans, and it should be used. It would be an encouragement to these men who are giving their services to help the returned soldiers and be far more satisfactory to the returned soldier than the present practice of forcing him to trot around to the defeated candidate or the Liberal committee and have his application o.k.'d. That is manifestly unfair and improper. If the postal department cannot cooperate with the Depart-

ment of Pensions and National Health by allowing this work to be done by these honorary committees of the veterans' assistance commission where they exist, it is a sad state of affairs.

Mr. STEWART: I wish to supplement the remarks of other hon. members who have spoken as to the existence of political patronage in the administration of the Post Office Department. I speak of what I know in the constituency I represent. A change has come over conditions there; I think that for a considerable time until recently the administration was not of that nature. I find that rural mail routes are changed without any cause, that a post office is moved from a store where it was well established for years and taken a mile or two down to a farm house, to the inconvenience of the patrons of that office. I find a temporary appointment made where a permanent appointment ought to be made, and returned soldiers passed over. I find that as election time draws near these people are approached, canvassed, induced and persuaded, and then if the right result is not obtained, after the election they are punished. I do not think the minister or the officials can be aware of what is going on, of the existence of these conditions; but what I am saying here I have said outside this house and I propose to say it outside the house again at the right time. What I am asking to-night is that when recommendations come along, they be carefully investigated and full information obtained, and that these changes be made on the basis of public service rather than petty political patronage.

Progress reported.

At eleven o'clock the house adjourned, without question put, pursuant to standing order.