

forces in peacetime the question would be asked why the government should contribute in respect to people in the armed forces when they do not contribute in respect to people in other occupations.

Mr. GILLIS: Fishermen, for example.

The CHAIRMAN: —and it would be said if they are going to be under the scheme, they should contribute to it. It seems to me before getting into the position of getting them in the back door in this way we should remember other similar groups did not want to get into it because they figured it was a scheme to help them carry the plan. It would be better for the Department of Veterans Affairs to withdraw as proposed, and leave it up to the armed services themselves, and the Department of National Defence and the Department of Labour to decide what they wished to do about unemployment insurance. I feel that the Department of Veterans Affairs are quite right in saying that it should not be under the obligation of appropriating money to look after people who are serving in peacetime armed forces. This department's job, I think, is to look after veterans who served during periods of wartime.

Hon. Mr. LAPOINTE: That is right. I might point out one thing which I mentioned yesterday in the estimates committee, and I may be permitted to repeat it here. One should recall the reason why unemployment insurance was brought into the Veterans Benefit Act. After World War II veterans who upon being discharged were unemployed, could draw what was called at that time "out of work allowances" which were benefits of about, I think, parallel amounts to the benefits to be drawn under the Unemployment Insurance Act. When the Korean conflict developed and the special force was raised, the government, as it will be recalled, was committed to give to the men who served in Korea the same advantages and benefits as had accrued to the veterans of World War II. However, as regards the out of work allowances, experience following the post World War II period had shown that those could be best administered through the offices of the unemployment insurance, and a very close liaison had to be maintained with the unemployment insurance office and the administration of the out of work allowances. In fact they were the ones who were called upon to do the work. Following a conference and a discussion between the authorities of the two departments, we arrived at the conclusion that by far the most efficient and practical way to give the Korean veterans benefits similar to the out of work allowances following World War II, was to have the government contribute into the unemployment insurance fund on behalf of each one of the men who were serving in Korea, and upon their being discharged to provide them with benefits under the Act. At all times, it was intended to be for people serving in Korea—in a theatre of operation—and it was not to be considered as a condition or term of service for people of the regular forces serving in peacetime because it would not have come under the Veterans Benefit Act or the jurisdiction of this department. It seems to me that this amendment is purely a question of putting our house in order.

Mr. HARKNESS: Apart from a man serving in a theatre of operation, we are in a period of what is generally called "cold war" and these people may be in an area of operations at any time. Also, I think we have to bear in mind that there are two general classes of men in the armed forces. One class might be called straight professional soldiers, people who intend to make the armed forces a career. When their first term of enlistment is up, they promptly re-enlist for a second, and then a third time, and so forth. The other group is composed of people, mostly young fellows, who put in their first three years. Perhaps they are discharged during that period for various reasons. It may be because the army does not think they are going to be good soldiers or it may be because of reasons of health or something else. Many of them at the end of three years have decided they do not want to make the army a career and