

past enjoyed, and still enjoy, a tremendously proud and effective force - unsurpassed anywhere in the world. We fully recognize that, if we are to maintain this effectiveness in the future, we must continue to provide the training, remuneration and career opportunities to attract the high calibre of person required for our demanding tasks. Whereas it is true that reorganization of any kind raises questions in respect to the effects that it may have on individuals, the important problems relating to individuals in the armed forces today are not those resulting from integration, they are the same real problems affecting men and women in all walks of life - that is, pay, allowances, housing, career opportunities, etc. I might add that there are, perhaps, many Canadians who do not fully appreciate just how good the Canadian armed forces really are and what a tremendous job they do as ambassadors for Canada as they pursue their task of contributing to the deterrence of war and helping to preserve world order. Honourable Members who have visited our armed forces units and establishments overseas, in Canada and at sea, and who have been impressed by the superb quality and proficiency of the men and women of the forces would be performing a most useful service if, at every opportunity, they informed their constituents, and Canadians generally, of the accomplishments of those who wear our country's uniform.

In respect to pay and allowances, a number of questions have been raised and these are all under active study at the present time. As I indicated in the House of Commons the other day, we fully realize that we have to compete for manpower in a booming economy, and measures will be taken - measures designated to do justice to the men and women of the armed forces and to attract new recruits to the organization.

The number of recruits required in the next four or five years will be considerably greater than has been the case for some time, simply due to the great numbers of servicemen who saw experience in the Second World War now reaching retirement age. This problem, combined with the increased competition in the labour market, will make our task difficult. We will appreciate the co-operation of all Honourable Gentlemen in helping us to meet our goals.

Finally, I should like to say a word of appreciation to those Honourable Gentlemen who served on the Special Committee on Defence. This Committee was an experiment. It was the first time in Canada that Members of this House have had the opportunity of discussing in committee, in an orderly fashion, the current expenditures and future plans of the Department of National Defence. I felt, from the outset, that the Committee could fill a very important function and that it would be a good vehicle for making available to Honourable Members of this House and to the Canadian public, much more information on defence matters than had previously been available from Canadian sources. I believe that the Committee was a most useful forum for discussion and that it proved the advisability of this kind of organization as a recognized part of our Parliamentary system. With the establishment of a permanent standing committee on defence, this principle has been formalized, and I am sure it will continue to do the same kind of good work performed by the members of the Special Committee.