

Mr. HENDERSON:

56. *National Defence administrative regulations and practices.* The Public Accounts Committee in its Sixth Report 1964 expressed its pleasure that appropriate changes had been or were in the process of being made in each of the Armed Forces administrative regulations which had been commented on in our 1963 Report. The Committee requested the Auditor General to inform the House of Commons of any case where the changes appear to be inadequate or where abuse and waste of public funds develop (see Appendix 1, item 22). The following paragraphs give brief outlines of the matters which remained uncorrected during the year under review and of several similar matters coming to our attention during the year.

1. **RELEASE FROM SERVICE THROUGH PURCHASE**—In the 1963 Report (paragraph 64 (2)) it was noted that while the Air Force and the Navy required the payment of money for “other ranks” to obtain release on request, the Army had not done so since 1950. While the Department expected that the practice would be reinstated with respect to the Army, orders giving effect to this have not yet been promulgated.
2. **REMOVAL EXPENSES—MOBILE HOMES.**—In the 1963 Report (paragraph 64(3)) it was observed that although new instructions were being issued to deal with the situation, it would seem appropriate that the regulations also be amended to include specific directions with respect to the movement of mobile homes and their contents. The new instructions referred to were issued in the fall of 1963 and the Department decided that a year’s experience would be required to assess their effectiveness. Based on experience gained in the trial period, new regulations are now being prepared.
3. **EXCESSIVE PAYMENTS FOR TRAVEL ON TRANSFER.**—Servicemen are permitted by the regulations to use their personally-owned automobiles to transport themselves and their dependents to new places of duty and are entitled to claim mileage allowances to cover transportation, meals and accommodation expenses based on direct road mileage at various rates, formulated on the basis of a Service member traveling 300 miles per day. The regulations also provide reimbursement of the cost of meals and accommodation at destination during the period the serviceman is awaiting the arrival of his furniture and effects or while arranging permanent accommodation. In the course of audit it was noted that Service Orders presently permit the payment of both allowances in cases where moves of less than 300 miles are completed in one day. As a result, the entitlement for meals and accommodation is in effect duplicated and the cost becomes excessive. A restrictive instruction is now under consideration by the Department.
4. **UNECONOMICAL MODE OF TRANSPORTATION.**—Under present regulations members on duty travel may at the discretion of the Commanding Officers use their motor cars for their own convenience. In the audit, instances were observed where two or more members of the same unit travelled to the same destination for the same purpose, each member being allowed to use his own car and receive the applicable