

*Supply—National Defence*

**Mr. Claxton:** Yes, that is right, and we will transfer to the Department of National Health and Welfare the money necessary to meet their expenses on civil defence which has been provided for in these items.

**Mr. Hees:** The hon. member for Calgary East has just pointed out that for the last several years he has asked the minister each year if he would not the following year bring down his estimates in the same form as they were brought down I believe up to 1947, and in the same form as other departments see fit to bring them down here. I have been here only one year, but last year I heard the hon. member for Calgary East pose this question to the minister. I think there was some kind of assurance, vague though it may have been, that that would be done. It seems that nothing has been done in the meantime. I think many hon. members have expressed the opinion before that if this were done a great deal of discussion would not have been necessary tonight.

The hon. member for Calgary East has again asked the minister the direct question: will the minister next year see to it that his estimates are brought down in the same form as other departments, and in the same form as I believe the department brought down the estimates prior to 1947? He did not see fit to give an answer. I would be very interested to hear from the minister a direct answer to that question.

**Mr. Claxton:** No, sir, I cannot give an answer because the form of the estimates is entirely a matter for the Department of Finance, and the form in which our estimates are presented is not the result of my machinations, I can assure the hon. member, but is the result of the work of the Department of Finance, the comptroller of the treasury and the Auditor General. They indicate to us the form in which our estimates should be put and we put them in the form in which they want them. Now, I have no doubt they will read the discussion in *Hansard* and will take account of the hon. gentleman's question.

**Mr. Hees:** Mr. Chairman,—

**The Deputy Chairman:** The hon. member for Kamloops.

**Mr. Fulton:** I wish to go back to the question of the associate deputy minister, but perhaps there is more discussion on this question of the form of the estimates.

**The Deputy Chairman:** Yes, but I should like to observe that the previous point was somewhat out of order. We are not going to discuss the method by which the estimates are to be presented next year. In my humble view that suggestion has been made by some

[Mr. Pearkes.]

of the members to the minister who has replied to the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre, and he has also given a reply to the hon. member for Broadview on the same question, and he has given a reply to the hon. member for Calgary East. Perhaps his reply is not that which the hon. member would wish, but nevertheless it is the reply of the minister, and he has indicated that that is the reply at least three times. I would suggest to the hon. members that we should carry on and discuss civil salaries and wages, which are relevant to the item.

**Mr. Drew:** According to my recollections, Mr. Chairman, the Minister of National Defence said that his department did not keep those records in a way that would make it possible to give this information without costing the people of Canada a great deal of money.

**Mr. Warren:** That is correct.

**Mr. Drew:** I have before me the last copy of the public accounts, and at page N-49 there is a list of the civil employees of the Department of National Defence. It gives the names and the salaries. There is no suggestion that this is in any way inconsistent with the practice of the department. On the contrary, it is put forward as a regular matter of record by the Auditor General. We see that for the year that was covered by these accounts it gives the deputy minister's salary as \$12,000; it gives the controller general of inspection services, the official to whom the hon. member for Nanaimo referred, at \$12,000; it gives the assistant deputy minister at \$10,000, and then it goes on with lists of names, with the salaries of each one, and that goes on for several pages. This is not a case of saying we have heard enough answers. We have heard enough answers to know that we need another answer, and that is why it is not possible—

**Mr. Warren:** May I ask the leader of the opposition a question? Did he ever go into the military camp at Petawawa, and through the gate of that camp? If he did so he would be meeting men all the time and, with them, it is not a matter of salary. It is just a day's pay; that is all they get.

**Mr. Drew:** I hope the hon. member who represents the constituency in which the Petawawa camp is situated is not under the impression that records are not kept as to what is paid the men who are there?

**Mr. Warren:** They are getting small amounts. It might be only a day's pay.

**Mr. Drew:** Well, that is just the point. I would like to know how small or how large the day's pay is, as the case may be. But