

Since I received that answer there have been articles in the press which read along this line. Allowances will be paid to dependents in Britain after the serviceman has been repatriated and discharged, but this amount is deducted in Canada from the serviceman's gratuities. The question is, are these allowances deducted from the serviceman's gratuities?

Hon. DOUGLAS ABBOTT (Minister of National Defence): They are not, Mr. Speaker. That report is completely inaccurate.

Mr. FRASER: Thank you very much.

VETERANS AFFAIRS

INQUIRY AS TO REPORT OF ROYAL COMMISSION ON VETERANS QUALIFICATIONS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. J. BROOKS (Royal): I wish to ask a question of the Minister of Veterans Affairs. I did not give notice because I did not think it would be necessary. Some time ago a royal commission on veterans' qualifications was appointed, headed by Colonel Bovey. This commission visited all sections of the dominion, gathering important information which would be of great help in rehabilitating our returned men. I understand the report has been made to the minister. Why has this report not been tabled, and when may we expect it to be tabled?

Hon. IAN A. MACKENZIE (Minister of Veterans Affairs): I should like with the hon. gentleman's permission to look into the matter and reply to the question later.

[Later:]

Mr. MACKENZIE: The report to which the hon. member referred on the orders of the day is very voluminous; it is in the hands of the Minister of Labour and is being prepared for tabling in the house as soon as possible. The commission was appointed on recommendation of the Minister of Labour, concurred in by the Minister of Veterans Affairs. Its purpose was to evaluate experience gained in the army in relation to industry, business and education.

REHABILITATION STATUS OF PERSONNEL JOINING INTERIM AIR FORCE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. G. DIEFENBAKER (Lake Centre): I wish to ask a question of the Minister of Veterans Affairs. It has to do with the units of the air force that are now being paraded before their commanding officers and given an

[Mr. Fraser.]

opportunity to join the interim air force. If they join that force for a period of two years, they want to know whether they will be protected in their rights to restoration in civilian employment under the act in that regard, provided that they stay on for two years or are sooner discharged. If they have that assurance it will make a great deal of difference.

Hon. IAN A. MACKENZIE (Minister of Veterans Affairs): My impression is that the answer should be definitely in the affirmative, but I give my hon. friend the same reply as I made to the hon. member for Royal.

Mr. MACKENZIE: The matter referred to by the hon. member is under study by legal officers who hope to have a report for consideration by privy council on Monday.

THE BUDGET

DEBATE ON THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

The house resumed from Friday, October 12, consideration of the motion of Hon. J. L. Ilesley (Minister of Finance) that Mr. Speaker do now leave the chair for the house to go into committee of ways and means.

Mr. J. M. MACDONNELL (Muskoka-Ontario): In taking part in the debate on the budget, may I begin by regretting the absence of the Acting Prime Minister (Mr. Ilesley). I am sure, Mr. Speaker, that if you decided he was absent on work of urgent national importance, everyone in this house would agree, and we all wish him success in what he is doing.

I presume the function of the opposition is, as it were, to act as the guide, philosopher and friend and to some extent the protector of the unfortunate taxpayer, who under present conditions of taxation feels, to use the language of the street, that he is losing his shirt. It does not matter whether his income is high or low; he feels exactly the same towards the tax collector. When the war was on and men were being killed and wounded in his defence, he could say nothing about it, but now he feels that the time has come when he should. He feels that the cart has been before the horse, that we have been spending and then trying to find out if we could afford to spend. He feels that we should now try to reverse that process. I should like to say a few words in his behalf this afternoon. The other evening I asked a few questions to that end, and I should like now to begin by referring to one of them. I said:

Are the expenditures so set out that we have a clear picture of what are ordinary and recurring expenditures, and of what are special expenditures non-recurring?