

within recent months Mr. Claxton has demonstrated his remarkable grasp of departmental affairs. Again I say, Canada is fortunate in her choice of Minister of National Defence.

The bill now before the house is intended to enable the government to place Canadian forces on active service, in accordance with the circumstances therein described. Honourable senators will recall that considerable attention was given not long ago to the National Defence Bill. During the careful consideration of that bill no one anticipated the early change in the international scene, which has since taken place. It is the experience of every lawyer that no matter how much wisdom is brought to bear on the consideration of a particular document, there are still contingencies that one cannot be prepared to meet. This sudden aggression is a contingency of that nature.

Honourable senators will recall that the National Defence Act provides that Canadian forces can only be placed on active service in an "emergency", which is defined as "war, invasion, riot or insurrection, real or apprehended". Though no such emergency exists at the present time, it obviously has become desirable and necessary that certain parts of the Canadian forces be placed on active service.

The bill before us provides that any part of the Canadian armed forces may in the future be placed on active service, not only in an emergency as defined by the National Defence Act, but also by reason of Canada's commitments under the United Nations Charter, The North Atlantic Treaty, or any other instrument for collective defence by which Canada is bound. That is the first important operative part of the bill.

Secondly, the bill provides that the services of short-term personnel, who are entitled to release at the expiration of their terms, may be retained while they are on active service or while an emergency exists, and for one year thereafter.

The third important provision has to do with pensions. The regular career soldier, who comes under the provisions of the Defence Services Pension Act, contributes about 5 per cent of his pay for pension purposes. The bill contains an amendment by which persons enrolled for special services shall be excluded from the provisions of that Act.

The last important provision in the bill is designed to enable the government to extend certain benefits of the veterans legislation now applicable to veterans of World

War II, to those who participate in any action under an international agreement. By this method parliament avoids the complicated procedure of amending all the statutes affected to make them apply to the special service force.

Section 8 of the bill provides that this Act shall be deemed to have come into force as of July 5, 1950, which is the date upon which the three Canadian destroyers now serving in the Pacific sailed from Canada.

Hon. John T. Haig: Honourable members, I shall be as brief as possible. It is agreed by all, I am sure, that the passage of the bill now before us is necessary to authorize the sending of a Canadian force outside the dominion. Therefore, I can see very little objection to it.

The introductory remarks of my honourable friend from Carleton (Hon. Mr. Fogo) brought clearly to my mind the feeling that has existed in Canada since June 25. Everyone was shocked at that time to hear that North Korea had attacked South Korea in a deliberate attempt to crush that part of the country. We knew that by agreement Russia was supposed to look after North Korea.

The honourable senator from New Westminster (Hon. Mr. Reid) recently gave us a splendid account of the Korean situation prior to the Great War. He explained how the 38th parallel had been the dividing line between North and South Korea for over one hundred years.

Fortunately, when North Koreans attacked South Korea on June 25 of this year there were two bodies in existence. The first was the United Nations Commission which was examining the situation in Korea, and therefore was able at once to give an unprejudiced account of what had happened; the second was the United Nations organization itself. My honourable friend from Carleton (Hon. Mr. Fogo) gave a brief history of world events from World War I to this day. We know how the United Nations organization was formed at San Francisco in 1945. Even at that time a great many of us thought that it was a great mistake to give the veto right to the five great world powers; but we were told that otherwise it would have been impossible to get either Russia or the United States to join the United Nations. When I attended the second session of the United Nations in New York in 1946, I think I learned why both the United States and Russia might have felt the need for the veto power. I do not think it was anticipated that the veto would be used as it has been, but the great powers, especially the United States, were afraid that a number of small nations, by combining their votes, could compel one of