

changed, that there will be a new approach and that all the old cobwebs will be swept away, because this is a new war, a new era, and we are dealing with different people. Let us be guided by the experience of the past and not repeat the mistakes that we have made in the past.

Before concluding I should like to make a suggestion to the minister. It might properly be made at another time but I bring it up now because of the urgency of the matter. I have had occasion before to bring this matter to the attention of the government and I repeat it now. Some things that affect the men in the armed services may be regarded by some people as little things. I deprecate the idea that what to us or to some people may seem little things, but which mean a great deal to the men themselves, should be in any way minimized. I do not suggest that the government is minimizing any of the matters affecting the soldiers and I simply want to warn them against such a tendency.

If there are little things which the men in the services require and which they feel are big things, then in my opinion that should be taken as the yardstick for us to use and we should treat them as big things from the point of view of the nation. These things may not be very significant to some people and yet may be of vast consequence to many members of the armed forces who are being discharged.

Let me mention briefly now and in a sketchy way, because I do not want to prolong the debate, one matter which I regard as quite important. I am bringing it up at this early stage not because I am anxious to criticize the government but because I wish to bring pressure to bear to get them to change the present regulations. If the minister will give some consideration to the matter I shall be happy because I do not want to be in the position of having to criticize the government farther in this regard.

I refer to what I think has been the inadequate provision for clothing allowance for the men who have been discharged. I know the question has been brought up before and I bring it up again to-night because I want to give it the sort of setting which will emphasize its importance. I am not saying this by way of criticism, because I can find plenty of other things to criticize the government about, but so far as clothing allowance is concerned I should like the government to change the present regulations even before the bill is brought in for second reading.

As the committee knows, there was at one time an allowance of \$35 for clothing for discharged men—a pitifully small amount. Then,

of course, the government, seeing that there had to be an additional amount, made an increase, not to an adequate figure but to the sum of \$65 for the non-commissioned officers and for the men. I do not wish to do more than say to the government that I believe that double the amount of \$65 is perhaps still inadequate with which to send a man out into the world. I believe the government will recognize that fact. It is not right to send our men who have had to fight, into the world with an amount inadequate to supply clothing—because they are being sent out to secure jobs. If they are to be rehabilitated and reestablished, then in all fairness they should be at least comfortably and well dressed.

In conclusion, may I say that in making a survey of the various items which go to make up the outfit of a soldier who would be entering civilian life, an outfit which would include a suit, an overcoat and various other items of wearing apparel, I find that the amount for the ordinary person would amount to well over \$200, perhaps to \$213. Then, for a summer outfit, without having regard to clothing for any other season of the year, the cost would be about \$107. For winter attire alone, the cost would be about \$121.60. I realize that prices may change, but I wish to leave this one thought in the mind of the government, namely that the amount of \$65 is inadequate for our men who are coming out of the services. I would ask the government to make an investigation, as I have done. Find out what it costs to buy a decent suit of clothes, and these other things which are required. If the government finds that \$65 is sufficient, then my objection vanishes. But I may say this, that I believe it will find that double \$65 is little enough to take care of the ordinary requirements of the ordinary man who will come out of the army and compete once again in civilian life.

I make this sincere and honest appeal to the minister, because I believe it would be in the government's interests, in the interests of the nation and the interests of parliament if he would accede to the request I have made.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): My hon. friend knows that is the responsibility of the Department of National Defence—although, of course, it is a government responsibility.

Mr. GRAYDON: Yes, it is the government's responsibility, and since it comes under veterans' affairs I thought this was perhaps the time when I should discuss it. In this way it will come to the ears of the government which, in any event, has the responsibility.