

*Reinforcements*

the Canadian public; but that is his responsibility, and he is man enough, I am sure, to assume it.

Mr. MARTIN: And he is doing it very well.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): That is a matter of opinion, and one about which we could agree to disagree.

Before I conclude may I say, without wishing to worry General McNaughton because I know he must be weary, that there is one point which is still not clear to me, and that is this. No matter how many men you get from general service, no matter how many men you get from the young men who are coming of age, the eighteen years and eighteen and one-half years, are the 16,000 trained men in the N.R.M.A. to go overseas whether they volunteer or not?

Mr. McNAUGHTON: The answer is, yes.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): That is what you said in your statement this afternoon, but from your answers to the former Minister of National Defence here to-night there is an inconsistency there, and I put myself on the judgment of this house.

Mr. SLAGHT: You are wrong.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Well, I may be wrong. I have never been so sure of myself as some other people are. I am not quite so sure of myself as the hon. member for Parry Sound (Mr. Slaght) seems to be of himself. But there is great confusion in the minds of the membership of this house.

Mr. SLAGHT: Being out of order, the hon. gentleman must be entitled to have somebody tell him that he is wrong. When he makes a misstatement of fact—inadvertently, perhaps—it is none the less a misstatement.

Mr. FRASER (Peterborough West): Who are you to judge?

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Thanks for the lecture. That is all I have to say. It is quite clear that the 16,000 well-trained troops are to be sent overseas irrespective of who else may be sent or what other commitments there are? That is what I want to be assured of.

Mr. McNAUGHTON: In round numbers.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Well, in round numbers. I am not going to quibble over one or two. Thank you very much.

Mr. McNAUGHTON: May I just express my deep appreciation to the hon. member for York-Sunbury for his kind words.

[Mr. R. B. Hanson.]

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The house may wish to discuss one or two matters before eleven o'clock, and I would suggest that the further questioning of General McNaughton should stand over for another time. What I would like to suggest to the house is this. The Minister of National Defence has been dealing with these matters to-day, and there is some information he has not been able to give on account of not having the records with him, but he will be in a position to have the records looked up immediately. Unless we are to have all this ground gone over again and again, it would I believe be best to conclude with the questioning of General McNaughton before entering on the next order of business. In other words, if the house wishes to question General McNaughton still further it should I think have the privilege of doing so to-morrow. If there is to be a secret session—it has been expressed that some would desire it, after the general was asked to-day certain questions to which he replied that he could answer only in secret session—if, I say, the house may feel that it wishes to have further information in secret session, I think any such session ought to follow immediately on this discussion to-day, and not be left over until other things have been dealt with in the interval.

When the debate begins on the motion which I have placed on the order paper it will continue to the end; and at the end of the debate, if the resolution is not carried, of course the government will immediately make way for those who are responsible for its defeat. It will be their obligation to form at once an administration to carry on Canada's war effort. But I think there should be no intermission during the debate itself to get information in secret session. It should not be necessary to bring General McNaughton back again, because the debate ought to conclude matters; and while my hon. friend the leader of the opposition (Mr. Graydon) said he would like to have it a condition before General McNaughton was admitted that the government would proceed to-morrow with the motion which is in my name, I feel I ought to ask him to-night, that, if there is any desire on the part of hon. members to question General McNaughton further, either in public or in secret session, that should have precedence to-morrow. Generally, when we have met after a long absence, we have made it a rule not to sit on a Friday evening. In view of the seriousness of the whole problem, and to give everyone an opportunity to reflect upon the information that has thus far been given, it would be advisable I believe to conclude with the questioning of General McNaughton to-morrow and to begin the