

I think it was the hon. member for Calgary West (Mr. Edwards) who spoke of the matter of transfers. There is no right of transfer as between any of the arms of the service. That is, after a man is in as a member of one arm he cannot as of right ask transfer to some other. The procedure is that he applies to his commanding officer for transfer to the other service, and the considerations which influence the commanding officer in granting or refusing that request are obviously (1) how long the man has been training, how much time has been spent fitting him for the particular arm of the service in which he is, and (2) his usefulness in connection with that arm of the service. I think reasonable endeavour is made to meet his desires, but obviously if you had a man highly trained for a year or two as a signaller in a particular unit, the commanding officer would feel reluctant to let him go to some other arm of the service where perhaps that training would not be so valuable.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): What is the position with respect to transfer to different branches of the same service, that is in the army; say transfer to the ordnance or the infantry? Does the man there have some option, or must he go where he is put? I know an instance of a man who understood he was going to the ordnance from the very beginning, but he was put into the artillery. He did not want to go there. He had a bent for the ordnance. I am not sure that the case has been settled yet. I have been trying to help him fulfil his desire, but I realize that there are two sides to the question. Possibly he is not fitted for the ordnance. Someone higher up would have to make the decision, but there ought to be some flexibility in a case like that.

Mr. RALSTON: Well, he does enlist for general service and he can be transferred from one branch of the army to another; that is the legal position. Certainly his desires are consulted. There are cases, many of them, and this may be one, in which the recruiting officer may have told him he would be taken into the ordnance.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): I think that is the fact in this case. That is the representation to me.

Mr. RALSTON: Legally it is a case where he can be sent from one branch of the army to the other.

The hon. member for Peterborough West (Mr. Fraser) asked for a list of the places where advisory committees to the dependents'

board of trustees had been set up. I have given him the reference, which is page 1932 of *Hansard*.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Are they functioning?

Mr. RALSTON: Yes.

Mr. BLACKMORE: Is there any provision whereby a man in the air force at a particular training centre, desiring to be transferred to another training centre giving the same sort of training, may have that change made?

Mr. RALSTON: My hon. friend asks with regard to the air force, and I can answer only as to the army. In the army the man would be entitled to appear before his commanding officer and make the request, giving his reasons. That request would be considered, and the action taken would depend upon the exigencies of the service. The man has no right to a transfer.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): It is sometimes given on compassionate grounds?

Mr. RALSTON: Sometimes that is done on compassionate grounds; families may be located at one place or another, and for the time being the man may be allowed to go to a certain camp or centre. I am speaking of the army, not the air force, about which my hon. friend really is asking. I must say that we cannot take into consideration very much the compassionate grounds of which my hon. friend speaks. Obviously, since there are now training centres all over Canada, men would like to go to the particular training centre nearest their homes. That cannot be done, and very often it is obviously desirable that they should go somewhere else, in order to gain experience away from home.

Mr. GRAYDON: Some months ago, according to an announcement in the press and, if my memory serves me aright, an announcement also in this house, provision was made for the issuing of discharge buttons, or at least buttons which would indicate that a person had been rejected after having applied for enlistment in the active service forces. I was wondering to what extent these rejection buttons had been issued and what were the regulations covering their distribution.

Mr. RALSTON: There are two buttons available. One is the discharge button; that is to say, a man who has enlisted for general service and who later has been discharged, receives one type of button. The other is the applicant for enlistment button. The adjutant-general cannot tell me the number issued so far, but they are available on application.