

Supply—National Defence

affiliations, and we may thus be defeating that which we are trying to preserve.

Mr. George: Mr. Chairman, I shall confine my remarks to the reserve army, with which I am more familiar. First of all I should like to relieve the minister of his worries about camp sites. I am sure we have two excellent camp sites in my riding, and I would ask him to come and look them over some time. The reserve army has certain and distinct roles. They are not the roles that seem to be in the minds of most speakers today. The first is aid to civil power. The second is to have all their officers, W.O.'s, and N.C.O.'s fully trained, together with as many men as their equipment and facilities will allow them to handle, and to have them as fully trained as possible. The third role is for use and availability in case of a national emergency. The role of the reserve army is not that of occupational troops.

Let us deal with these points in order. The reserve army has been called out in the past to aid the civil power, and their work has been very effective. This is one of the roles that we all dislike, and fortunately very few of us have been called upon to perform such service. Briefly, to call out the reserve army as aid to civil power, the attorney general of the province concerned must make application to the federal government for the necessary troops. If authority is granted the troops are called out and the cost is paid by the province concerned.

The second role is the one with which most of us are fully acquainted. It is to have 100 per cent strength of officers and N.C.O.'s and from 50 to 100 per cent of other ranks as fully trained as possible. Many units have all their officers, W.O.'s and N.C.O.'s fully trained. That is the case in my own unit, the 8th Princess Louise's (N.B.) Hussars, which I have the honour to command. We are up to strength in officers and N.C.O.'s, and they are trained. We have a strength of around 650 all ranks although the other ranks are not all fully trained. About 30 per cent of the war establishment, in other words, 30 per cent of our total strength, are qualified.

The percentage of qualified personnel in units depends entirely on the type of unit to which they belong. In an armoured regiment, for instance, 75 per cent of the personnel are tradesmen. We find that it takes a minimum of three years to train these tradesmen. This tends to keep down our percentage of trade personnel compared, for instance, with an infantry regiment which has a lower percentage of tradesmen. These reserve units are to be available in case of war. They are

not to go immediately into battle, but to be mobilized, fully trained and equipped within a reasonable time to take part in the defence of this country, whether it be in Canada or on foreign soil.

In cases of national emergency such as the Winnipeg flood last year, certain units of the reserve army were called out, and they did an excellent job. As I said before, the role of the reserve army is not occupation, and it could not be expected that reserve units should be sent to Europe or other foreign countries purely in anticipation of hostilities breaking out. We have not considered that one of the roles of the reserve army should be that of supplying personnel to what we know as permanent force units. That does not apply to the special or 27th brigade. Reserve army personnel are all employed in civilian occupations, and they do their training on holidays, week ends and in the evenings. Any move to mobilize complete units, except in the case of a national emergency, could be disastrous not only to industry but to the units themselves. However, I am sure that if any of the reserve army units were asked to mobilize today they would do so.

The minister's announcement of last Friday that the brigade for Europe was to be raised from and by the reserve units is in my opinion a fine idea and will ensure sufficient personnel being enlisted. Reserve army units will take pride in having sub-units in other larger formations wearing their badges, flashes, ties, and so on. The raising of the brigade by this method will not disrupt industry, and it makes the reserve army feel that at long last they are considered part of the defence forces of this country.

It has been said in this debate that the enlisting of personnel from and by the reserve army will weaken the reserve units. This no doubt is true in part. However, when the special brigade for Korea was being mobilized some time ago something over sixty of our personnel enlisted in the special force. In addition, we supplied a complete troop including tradesmen to the R.C.D.'s. This actually did cut down our strength and reduced the number of our tradesmen, but the unit was recruited back to its former strength and by putting on a number of courses ourselves we qualified more tradesmen than we have ever had before. In fact we now have 132 qualified tradesmen trade tested by an active force trades test board and drawing trades pay.

Some of these men are enlisting. The training which the reserve army has given them will mean that they enter the active force