

*Canadian Forces Act*

from there are taken to their final destinations. It is therefore difficult to give to them the welcome that we should like to give.

The hon. member for Kootenay West asked if reserve units had independent working arrangements so that one unit could do one thing and another unit do another. They are all subject to the same regulations. They have the same training syllabuses and the same kind of training equipment. All of them have administrative and training officers and N.C.O.'s provided by the active force, and who themselves receive the same instructions. As far as possible they are given the same work to do and the same equipment to do it with. Generally speaking there is uniformity of training methods. However, when that is said and done, as all hon. members know who have seen service, a good deal depends on the commanding officer and the officers and men in the unit, as well as upon the locality, so there are differences due to those factors.

The hon. member asked if the reserve units enlisted men to play games in leagues; that is, men who have no other duty than to play for the units. That certainly would not be countenanced under the regulations. I do not know of any such cases. I know, however, that some units are extremely glad indeed to get good athletes to play for their teams. But in all cases I have ever heard of, those men play the games in addition to performing their regular military duties. Certainly the two grand players on the Ottawa Rough Riders team—Tony Golab and Don Loney who played this year—were both full-time service personnel well up with their military duties.

The hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre advanced an additional reason for using the welfare agencies, namely that it would tend to attract the interest and the support of the Canadian people. That is an important factor. I should like to pin on his remarks a strong plea for support of the Canadian Legion and its service in supplying reading matter and other similar things to the forces abroad and of the Canadian Red Cross in its work in supplying not only comforts to men in hospitals—which they do extensively—but also in its campaign to collect and to supply blood plasma for the use of our forces abroad and at home, and also build up a mobilization reserve.

The hon. member for Yale referred to medical records. As to the records of men who served in the second world war, those are in the custody of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Our experience has been that for the most part the records are very

complete and full indeed. I will look into the suggestion he made that each man should carry a medical record. I may say, however, that I think there are rather grave logistic difficulties in the way. My recollection is that the medical records of a man now total some ten or eleven forms, including X-ray, X-ray analysis, teeth and so on; and that to summarize these in a book would be a large scale operation.

The hon. member for York West referred to the force going to Europe, the 27th Canadian infantry brigade. I appreciate his remarks. Lately we have instituted a bureau of current affairs designed to do just that job both there and elsewhere in the Canadian forces. The director of the bureau, Mr. Harry Low, will be leaving with me on Friday. Next Sunday we will be visiting the air force squadron which arrives today at North Luffenham. Mr. Low will go with me to Germany where we will visit brigade headquarters, and also be on hand to greet the infantry battalion of the 27th Canadian infantry brigade when it arrives at Rotterdam next Wednesday. He is coming with me to see that everything possible is done to make arrangements with all the North Atlantic treaty nations for courses, lectures, leaves, tours, exchanges of photographs, bulletins and the like, so that our forces have every possible opportunity to make the most of their stay abroad and come back even better Canadians.

**Mr. Blackmore:** Before the minister gets too far away from dealing with some of these matters, I wonder if he would give some thought to the advisability of granting a cost of living bonus to the dependents of servicemen for at least as long as the high prices from which we are now suffering persist. It seems to me that a sufficient addition to the allowances has not been made to enable the dependents to keep anywhere near abreast of the high cost of living. Will the minister say a few words upon that matter? Before I take my seat I should like to commend the minister on the general air of thoroughness which appears to pervade his whole department and the activities of the troops, as far as I have been able to see. I was one of the fortunate who had the privilege of visiting Camp Borden not very long ago, and I kept my eyes and ears open all the way through. I endeavoured to keep my critical faculties alert. Everything I saw in Camp Borden was commendable to a very high degree. I thought that if Camp Borden was an index by which we could judge the general state of affairs in the Department of National Defence then we could rest assured that our generation was doing its best to discharge its