

The members of the forces have had their hopes of having a career in the armed forces dimmed and frustrated because of the fear that, no matter how efficient they may become, the finger of the minister will be pointed to them and to their removal. They are frightened. On the one hand, the minister says that while we are not getting as many recruits as we did there are all kinds of explanations. When there was a suggestion that in order to bring back trained men and women fully able to carry out their responsibilities there should be some kind of bonus paid, the suggestion was ridiculed. Last September and October the minister ridiculed that suggestion, according to reports. Now he says he did not; he just gave an interview.

The *Ottawa Journal* of today seems to put the matter very well.

The \$50 million to be spent in re-engagement bonuses in the armed service in two years will not solve the basic problem . . .

One common cause of discontent is the uncertainty caused by government policy. In the last 18 months servicemen have been encouraged to retire and paid grants to do so before their term of engagement expired. The total in the service has been cut about 15,000 in three years—and now there are not enough men, especially in categories of special skills.

Near the bottom of the article I read this:

The re-engagement bonuses will not be enough to hold many of the most thoughtful and valuable servicemen.

● (4:50 p.m.)

I pointed out that we have had no answer from the minister regarding some of the criticisms in the Auditor General's report respecting periods of service. We would like to know who these gentlemen were who enlisted at nine years of age. That just shows, Mr. Chairman, the appeal that the minister has. According to page 55 of the Auditor General's report, during the year six cases were singled out in which officers and men were released on pension.

Mr. Hellyer: I am sure that the right hon. gentleman is not suggesting that I was minister when they enlisted.

Mr. Diefenbaker: No. But I ask the minister, does he seriously say that these people enlisted at the ages of nine and eleven? If he does, then there can only be one conclusion.

Mr. Nielsen: Present the facts.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Yes; we are here to get information. The Auditor General's report says that these people had been credited with pensionable service dating in one case from

the age of nine and in five other cases from the ages of 11 and 12. I want to know who these people are.

The report goes on:

File documentation in respect of the early service was fragmentary, statutory declarations being accepted.

Was it under this minister that these statutory declarations were accepted in order to increase the amount of pension? I ask him again who these people are. Did these matters come to his attention?

Mr. Churchill: At least his Associate Minister should know.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Certainly. There is only one real minister now. The matter has come to his attention and there will certainly be no disagreement about that.

The report continues:

In response to an Audit Office query about the officer whose service began at age nine, departmental officers replied that while enlistment at this age was contrary to regulations, the officer had not been discharged as being under age and consequently they were satisfied that he had served.

I want to hear something about this man, Mr. Chairman. This is an officer we want to hear about. Even the honorary colonel of the Essex Scottish is interested in that. Who are these people? Speaking seriously now, what nonsense is this? This is a matter about which we want to know.

Mr. Nielsen: Horses and children.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I ask the minister, there being some retirements I do not understand, to give us a record of the number of officers in the three services who have been retired in the last three years and who received, first, \$6,000 to \$7,000 retirement allowance, second, \$7,000 to \$8,000 a year and, third, \$8,000 to \$10,000 a year. I want the names of those who were retired, their ranks and their ages.

Mr. Herridge: When they enlisted.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I do not think they come within this group of juveniles but I do want this information now instead of waiting for the defence committee to meet. The minister has brushed this off on other occasions; he has said: "Wait till we get to the defence committee". We want this information now and I would ask the minister to procure it.

These are just a few matters about which we want to know, Mr. Chairman. How many motor cars are there in Ottawa which were used by the defence department during each of the years 1963, 1964, 1965 and 1966 and