

*Reinforcements*

on a reserve and apparently are to go into civilian clothes and go back into industry. Can you tell us just what number you think will be affected by that, and what use they will be?

Mr. McNAUGHTON: The employment companies I admit are in an early stage of development as regards their regulation. The hon. member asked me, if I understood him correctly, whether these men would go into civilian clothes and be allowed—

Mr. GREEN: No, no. I understood you to say in your statement that you were going to have some of these N.R.M.A. men put into a Canadian employment corps, presumably working on government jobs in Canada.

Mr. McNAUGHTON: Yes, hospitals and the like.

Mr. GREEN: I suppose they would be in a uniform of some sort. In addition, you said that some N.R.M.A. men are to be placed on a reserve and are to go back into industry. It is about the second group I am asking.

Mr. McNAUGHTON: I think that is a most important matter because many of the men have special qualifications and can meet the needs, for example, in the munitions industry. If we have a man who is capable of helping us in that business, where we are very short, we are in duty bound, I think, to release him, and the simplest way to do so is to place him on a reserve and allow him to go and work in that industry.

Mr. GREEN: About how many men are to be dealt with in that way?

Mr. McNAUGHTON: I cannot give the answer to that until I have a detailed analysis of the figures. All I have been able to state to the house to-day is a policy. We are working it out, and in due course we shall see what the needs of the situation are and how we can best meet them.

Mr. GREEN: Will it run into some thousands?

Mr. McNAUGHTON: The skilled men will run probably into a few hundreds.

Mr. GREEN: About how many will be enlisted in the Canadian employment corps?

Mr. McNAUGHTON: In round numbers, somewhere about 9,000.

Mr. GREEN: So 9,000 are to go into these employment companies and just about the same number are now working out at different jobs.

Mr. McNAUGHTON: It is a regrouping of people who are out and bringing them under more effective control.

[Mr. Green.]

Mr. GREEN: This plan of bringing men who are out working in industry back into the army again does not amount to very much if they are simply to be brought back into this Canadian employment corps.

Mr. McNAUGHTON: The hon. member said it did not amount to much. I wish to goodness it amounted to nothing.

Mr. GREEN: But that is the position, is it not? Thank you, very much.

Mr. POULIOT: I have a threefold question to ask of the general in regard to reinforcements. The general will probably agree that N.R.M.A. men are not the only source of reinforcements, and that the first source of reinforcements shall be the general service men who have never been in any theatre of war.

That is preliminary to these three questions, the last of which has not been written, but it is one which the minister will remember without difficulty:

First: On November 1, 1944, were there (a) at national defence militia headquarters at Ottawa, (b) at those of the various military districts, and (c) in all other army militia establishments, any G.S. officers who had not been sent to any theatre of war; and if so, how many at (a), (b), and (c)?

Second: were any of such G.S. officers and men fully trained, and if so, how many, at (a), (b) and (c)

Third: Precisely why those G.S. men, who have volunteered, are not clear on the way to the front—because they are not—before N.R.M.A. men are called?

Mr. McNAUGHTON: May I reply to the hon. member that I have not this detailed statistical information here, but we will do our best to get the figures and give him the answers to his questions. As regards the last question, regarding general service volunteers for overseas, it is a principle that an officer shall go where he is sent. There is no question that these volunteers are available for service anywhere as need dictates. It may happen, and I have no doubt does happen, that technical officers and others who have been used on special work may well have been retained even this long at one of the headquarters. I must admit that I have not information as to the number, but I will try to get it and give the answer at the first opportunity.

Mr. DIFENBAKER: Mr. Speaker,—

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Macleod has the floor.