

do. But he is doing it efficiently, and I pay tribute to him for a job being performed under difficult circumstances.

Mr. FRASER (Peterborough West): Does the amount of \$4,595,535 cover food and attendance? I ask this question because many people have asked why the German prisoners in Canada do not need boxes of food to keep them well fed, whereas our troops who are prisoners overseas have to have them to keep alive.

Mr. RALSTON: Was the hon. member asking about operating expenses?

Mr. FRASER (Peterborough West): All operating expenses, including food and administration. Then, of course, we must include the pay to the internees, as well. I understand it comes from Switzerland.

Mr. RALSTON: Yes; for all except officers.

Mr. FRASER (Peterborough West): Since a number of these internees have been captured by the British, does the British government pay any part of the expense?

Mr. RALSTON: Yes. I am not in a position at the moment to disclose the financial arrangement with the United Kingdom, but there is an arrangement as to their contribution.

Mr. GREEN: The hon. member for Calgary West said that in these prison camps the nazis are in command, that they have their own gestapo and so on. Would the minister say what system is followed in organizing these camps, and whether it is a fact that the Germans in the camps practically control the whole organization?

Mr. RALSTON: There is a spokesman in each camp.

Mr. GREEN: He is a German?

Mr. RALSTON: It would depend upon the set-up in that camp; I suppose he would represent the majority. Endeavour has been made to segregate those of different tendencies and types particularly civilians. You will remember that this came up some time ago in connection with the Fredericton camp. The nazi group as far as possible are segregated from the anti-nazi group. That was the situation which arose in the Fredericton camp, which brought about the alleged riot which was spoken of here some time ago.

Mr. GREEN: The situation is that the prisoners themselves have practically complete control within the wires?

Mr. RALSTON: Not complete control. They have an organization whereby one man

speaks for them and is responsible for—I was going to say their good behaviour, but that is hardly the right expression. A communication to him is regarded as a communication to the prisoners in the camp; a warning to him is regarded as a warning to them; if the arrangements he has made are not carried out, then the necessary punitive, remedial and disciplinary measures follow. As my hon. friend knows, the guards are closely in touch with the prisoners in the camp, who are given a certain amount of freedom inside; that is to say, they are not harassed continually if they are behaving properly. They are given a certain amount of autonomy in connection with their day to day arrangements. Their parades are at a certain time; they are out during certain hours; their meals are served at certain hours; roll call is at certain hours, but with regard to what they may be doing at a particular time, that can be largely arranged by themselves. The guards do circulate through the inclosure as frequently as may be necessary in order to see that no untoward event is taking place, and endeavours are made to check any attempts to escape by tunnelling and all that sort of thing.

Mr. GREEN: Who is the director of internment operations; who is in charge?

Mr. RALSTON: Colonel Streight.

Mr. GREEN: Then how do the veterans guard fit into the picture?

Mr. RALSTON: They have full charge with regard to the guarding arrangements of the camps. They are distributed all over Canada, but within the district they are under the district officer commanding, whoever he may be. The guard is just like a detachment of infantry or any other part of the Canadian army which is sent to a particular place to do a particular job.

Mr. GREEN: Are they under the director of internment operations also?

Mr. RALSTON: No; the guard are under the district officer commanding. The director of internment operations is the liaison with External Affairs, and has particularly to do with seeing that international arrangements are carried out with all the incidents which deal with the maintaining of the Geneva convention respecting prisoners of war. The director of internment operations is not directly responsible for the guarding of the prisoners or for their security; rather he is the headquarters officer having supervision over the