

ment will honour, but we do not want to be in the position of having to ask your favour when we want to speak.

Mr. MACKENZIE: It is not a favour; it is a promise.

Mr. BRACKEN: Then I ask another question. Can the minister say why, when there are fifteen or sixteen departments in supply, they want to put in another one?

Mr. MACKENZIE: To help expedite the business of this house.

Mr. BRACKEN: Already we have fifteen or sixteen departments to deal with, and you have five or six or seven or possibly eight weeks to go in order to get the other departments in.

Mr. MACKENZIE: I hope not. My hon. friend may recall that last year we held up one department, legislation, with the promise I made tonight to the opposition and the other parties in the house, that if they decided to raise any question on going into supply on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday they would have the absolutely free and unfettered right of discussion on that item; and I think that meets the situation.

Mr. BRACKEN: Then this is a perfectly fair question. Will the minister tell me what advantage it will be to the house by way of expediting the business to have sixteen departments in supply rather than fifteen? I do not know, and I should like to be told.

Mr. MACKENZIE: I can tell my hon. friend that I have been here for nearly twenty years; and it has been my experience, not only when we were over there but when we were over here, that in the last week or ten days of every session whatever government may be in office is severely criticized for not having made greater progress in supply. I can also tell my hon. friend there is no sinister motive at all behind this. If my hon. friends do not want another department after tonight we shall just leave them as they are.

Mr. BRACKEN: But you have not answered my question.

Mr. POULIOT: I just want to put a question that may be answered the next time the estimates are brought in. Last year enormous amounts of money were voted for the assistance of returned men. Several acts were passed; I do not know what chapters they are, but you, Mr. Chairman, know the acts I am referring to. What I want to know the next time the estimates are submitted to the committee is, how many members of the

Canadian army have been given the advantages of the legislation passed last year, and how many members of any other army, the imperial army or any other, have been given the same advantages? I want to know also to what extent the privileges given—

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order. The item before the committee is 402, providing that \$544,000 be granted to His Majesty for transport, departmental administration.

Mr. POULIOT: Yes, I know.

Mr. MACKENZIE: On a question of privilege, if I may reply at once to my hon. friend, as soon as the Department of Veterans Affairs is in supply I shall be very glad to answer all the questions my hon. friend has mentioned. It is not in supply as yet. This is the Department of Transport.

Mr. POULIOT: We are before the committee now, and I do not ask that the question be answered this evening. I do not want to back the minister to the wall.

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order. We are on transport; departmental administration.

Mr. MACKENZIE: I move that the item stand.

Mr. BRACKEN: Might I get clearly from the minister what he proposes now? He is asking that one more department be put in supply, and he is saying that the remainder—?

Mr. MACKENZIE: Will be left over until after consultation with the leaders of the various groups in the house.

Mr. BRACKEN: Thank you very much.

Mr. POULIOT: This is not the estimates; this is the cinema, the moving pictures.

Item stands.

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL HEALTH
AND WELFARE

200. Departmental administration, \$531,954.

Mr. TIMMINS: When the committee rose last evening, Mr. Chairman, I was dealing with the subject of cancer research, and I should like to direct my remarks to that subject for a short time again this evening. I point out that in the estimates of the Department of National Health and Welfare for this year there is no item whatever with respect to cancer research. Last evening the minister said the matter of fighting cancer must engage our fullest attention, but I say now it has received no attention from this government, at least up to January, 1947. Whatever cancer research has been carried on has been done by the national research council. A return filed by the Department of National Health and