

Canadian Forces Act

as suggesting that this should be an expensive and luxurious type of treatment for servicemen. I approve a hard life for servicemen; it makes them good fighters. At the same time, these auxiliary services have been proved, by the experience of two world wars, to be absolutely essential and they should be part of the policy of our forces at the present time.

The Chairman: Shall the section carry?

Mr. Green: No. We want an answer.

Mr. Campney: Mr. Chairman, the minister dealt at length with this question of auxiliary services not only yesterday and on the occasion to which the hon. member for Lake Centre referred, but also on another occasion; I have just lost the page for the moment. He answered orally a question asked by the hon. member for Brandon a few days ago and dealt at quite some length with this particular point.

Mr. Green: At what page?

Mr. Campney: I had it here a few moments ago; at page 477 of *Hansard* of October 29.

Mr. Green: That is the statement to which the hon. member for Lake Centre referred.

Mr. Campney: No.

Mr. Knowles: It was in answer to the hon. member for Brandon.

Mr. Campney: I have nothing to add to what the minister said on those occasions. I think he stated the views of the government and the reasons for those views. I therefore do not propose to add anything to what he said. But before I sit down I should like to say this, in response to the point raised by the hon. member for Vancouver-Quadra as to the Salvation Army operating an auxiliary service in Korea in connection with the British army. Yesterday the minister said that he would make inquiry in London. That inquiry was made and the department has just received a reply from the British authorities in London who advise us that there are no Salvation Army welfare services operating in Korea under United Kingdom auspices.

Mr. Green: I wonder how this Salvation Army jeep got into Korea if there are no Salvation Army officers there? Here is a picture in an advertisement published in Great Britain by the Salvation Army; and I am quite sure they are not misrepresenting the facts. There must be some explanation other than that which the parliamentary assistant has just given us.

Mr. Campney: Mr. Chairman, the one is a newspaper report and photograph and the other is a report from the British authorities in London. I cannot say more than that.

Mr. Green: Is it the policy of the Department of National Defence that these voluntary welfare organizations shall not be permitted to take part in any operation in which the Canadian army is concerned? Has there been a change in policy since the second world war? We hear rumours that the Department of National Defence has decided that it will no longer allow any of these national organizations to take part in the providing of welfare services. That rumour was before the Canadian Council of Churches yesterday in Montreal. In the first paragraph of the press report we find this:

The Canadian Council of Churches yesterday decided to investigate reports, expressed before it, that the Salvation Army, Y.M.C.A., Knights of Columbus and similar agencies will be excluded from forthcoming over-all welfare service for the Canadian armed forces.

We have heard similar rumours here. Will the parliamentary assistant tell us whether this new policy has been adopted by the Department of National Defence and, if so, why?

Mr. Campney: The minister has dealt with this problem on three occasions in this chamber, and in my humble opinion he has clearly stated the views of his department and of the government, and the reasons therefor. I do not think I can be expected at this time to add anything further to what he has said, nor do I propose to do so.

Mr. Green: Can the parliamentary assistant refer us to any page of *Hansard* at which the minister dealt with that question as to any change in policy of the department? I can find no reference to that matter.

Mr. Campney: Mr. Chairman, I would think that the minister's statements speak for themselves. They make clear what the position is. I suppose it is open to the hon. member to make any deduction he chooses to make. The statements are on *Hansard* in three places. I do not propose to try to elaborate on them or to enlarge on them.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Chairman, this is one of the great difficulties that we experience in the House of Commons. The parliamentary assistant was left in charge by the minister because he is fully qualified to speak; otherwise he would not be there. Being fully qualified to speak, he should not be in a position to say to us now: I am not going to give you any more answers; the minister has dealt with that question. After all, the