

Mr. FORRESTALL: Do you know how many members, for example, of the commissioned ranks were present at that meeting?

Rear Admiral LANDYMORE: No. I was told that there was upwards of 300 at the officers meeting.

Mr. FORRESTALL: That would be a substantial percentage of those not otherwise committed to jobs that they could not very well leave during the day?

Rear Admiral LANDYMORE: That would represent a very good proportion of the people available. In fact, everyone who was available was required to attend.

Mr. FORRESTALL: They were required to attend?

Rear Admiral LANDYMORE: I think so.

Mr. FORRESTALL: Was it indeed what we refer to as a parade?

Rear Admiral LANDYMORE: Yes.

Mr. FORRESTALL: We will question the Minister about this later on.

The CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

Mr. FORRESTALL: Admiral, can we revert to the bill for a moment. I want to question this matter of continuing service. You have made certain recommendations, which have been repeated to myself in hundreds and hundreds of letters. Subclause 1 of clause 6 reads:

(1) Officers and men who are members of the Royal Canadian Navy, the Canadian Army or the Royal Canadian Air Force immediately prior to the coming into force of this Part are, subject to the provisions of the National Defence Act, members of the Canadian Forces.

Admiral, you make the point that this was going to have some serious effect on morale? Were you telling that the retention of this might force people to reconsider whether or not they would stay on in the armed services?

Rear Admiral LANDYMORE: I did not go as far as to say that. I thought that not gaining the consent of the people in the armed forces would lead to resentment which would be long standing.

Mr. FORRESTALL: I think the Committee, earlier in our hearings, had agreed to hear a legal point of view. Could you tell the Committee how, for example, the officers feel about their present commitments to the RCN? Is it your own impression that you joined the Royal Canadian Navy and not something else, and that you would not wish to be discharged from anything other than the Royal Canadian Navy?

Rear Admiral LANDYMORE: That is right, yes.

Mr. FORRESTALL: Is this the general opinion that is held by not only officers but men as well?

Rear Admiral LANDYMORE: I cannot say how general it is. I have had a good number of people express that point of view to me. I have not done a survey to find out how general it is.

Mr. FORRESTALL: Thank you. I think that is all.

Mr. FANE: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask Admiral Landymore a couple of questions.