

the army overseas, we should turn to another method in order to discharge our duties and responsibilities.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): If I properly interpreted your remarks this afternoon, you frankly admitted that a mistake had been made and you did not get the big response you expected you might get? Is that not the substance of your statement this afternoon? It is the way I interpreted it, at all events.

Mr. McNAUGHTON: What I contended we should do was that we should make an honest and full endeavour to maintain our traditional system and to prove conclusively, to the satisfaction of ourselves and of all the country, that it could not be done, before we turned to measures which were more extreme.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: What are the more extreme measures?

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): Read the order in council.

Mr. McNAUGHTON: The measures to which the hon. member refers are those which were laid on the table of this house to-day.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: And which the minister said he did not expect he would ever have to use.

Mr. CRERAR: He said nothing of the kind.

An hon. MEMBER: He "hoped".

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: Did the minister say he never hoped to use it?

Mr. McNAUGHTON: He said he hoped it would not be necessary to use it. But he said also that the forces overseas will be maintained.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: Oh. So that we can take it as definite that the statement this afternoon that the minister did not expect to use the powers has been changed; his attitude has been changed?

Mr. McNAUGHTON: I would say to the hon. member that the answer to his question is, no. I still hope that the voluntary system will be effective, but my first duty, my first purpose is to maintain our forces overseas to the strength that has been decided; and those forces will be maintained, by any method.

Mr. NOSEWORTHY: General McNaughton, I was very much interested in the coincidence which is evident in the figures which you gave this afternoon. You estimate that an additional 16,000 men will be needed for reinforcements, to see you through, I think you

said, until May. The figures show that there are 16,000 men in N.R.M.A. either fully trained or very nearly fully trained for the infantry; and I notice that the order in council tabled this afternoon authorizes you to send at your discretion a number up to 16,000 overseas. Would you like to comment on that unusual coincidence of figures?

Mr. McNAUGHTON: I would say to the hon. member that it is a coincidence. It is fortuitous because there is no real connection between the figures in the sense that he means. We do require another block of infantry overseas, as I shall endeavour to show when I am speaking to the house under conditions where I can disclose these figures in detail.

Mr. NOSEWORTHY: Would you say that the 16,000 provided in the order in council was governed by the fact that there were 16,000 fully trained available, or by the fact that there were 16,000 needed overseas?

Mr. McNAUGHTON: The figure of 16,000 of additional dispatches is the recommendation of the general staff, who are responsible for advising me on these matters. It is a statement of requirements.

Mr. NOSEWORTHY: I note from the afternoon papers that the press at least gained from the order in council the impression that the 16,000 trained in the N.R.M.A. would be sent overseas under the authority of that order in council. You would say that there is no justification for the press drawing that inference from the order in council.

Mr. McNAUGHTON: The numbers sent over under the authority of the order in council will be those numbers which are needed to make up any deficit in the men who are coming forward voluntarily and who, of course, are suitably trained.

Mr. NOSEWORTHY: I understood from your statement this afternoon that that is your policy. I have not a copy of your statement, and this may be asking for the repetition of something that you have already given; but would you outline to us just how you propose to make up that complement of 16,000?

Mr. HOMUTH: Where are you going to get them?

Mr. McNAUGHTON: I would say that these extra 16,000 for dispatch—5,000 approximately in December, 5,000 in January, and speaking from memory, I believe, 2,000 in each of the months thereafter, making the total of 16,000—having been set by the staff and approved by the minister, it becomes the duty of the adjutant-general's branch, work-