

*National Defence Act Amendment*

Therefore I do not think we should by act of parliament substitute a new arrangement for the agreement that was originally entered into by individual officers and make the substitution binding upon them unless they voluntarily agree to accept the situation. I should like the minister to say a few words on the question of the compulsion in regard to all serving officers in the present three services when this act is proclaimed.

**Mr. McIntosh:** Mr. Chairman, I do not know whether this is the proper place to ask the question, but as the minister mentioned men who leave the service to further their education I have a case in mind almost parallel to the one brought up by the hon. member for Digby-Annapolis-Kings concerning the officer who, after completing his three years, wished to leave the service and go into law. The case I have in mind is that of a young chap who was in the service and was permitted to buy his way out. I do not know whether policy, law or regulations govern this situation, but this man was not given a refund. The answer I received from the minister's department was that unless he left the service to enter university he must forfeit his \$125, or whatever the sum was. In this case this young lad had not completed high school and he left the service intending to complete high school and, then go on to university. If proof is given the minister's department that after completion of high school the young lad has gone on to university, will the purchase price paid by the young lad to the department be refunded?

**The Deputy Chairman:** Shall clause 3 carry?

**Mr. McIntosh:** No, Mr. Chairman, I should like an answer to my question before allowing it to pass.

**Mr. Hellyer:** I am sorry, I do not know the answer to that question offhand.

**The Deputy Chairman:** Shall clause 3 carry?

**Mr. Churchill:** Call the yeas and nays.

**The Deputy Chairman:** Those in favour of the clause passing will please rise.

**Mr. McLraith:** We should all rise.

**Mr. Churchill:** Call the nays.

**The Deputy Chairman:** Order. A request has been made that the yeas and nays be called.

[Mr. MacLean (Queens).]

**Mr. Churchill:** Only one person rose and you should have called the nays.

Clause agreed to: Yeas, 40; nays, 25.

**The Deputy Chairman:** I declare clause 3 carried.

On clause 4—*Ranks of officers and men.*

**Mr. Harkness:** Mr. Chairman, this clause deals with the ranks to be held by officers, N.C.O.'s and men in the services. When this bill was originally introduced clause 4 listed the new ranks in the single unified force which would be in effect after the bill became law. It also had a provision that the minister may make regulations prescribing other designations for the titles of rank set forth in the clause.

No evidence was brought before the committee to show what advantages would accrue from having a single rank structure for all three services. It was stated that this would make for administrative ease. However, all of the witnesses who came before the committee were asked their opinion about this and they gave evidence to the effect that the proposed single rank structure would have very serious effects upon the morale of the services and that in particular it would be damaging as far as naval personnel were concerned. It was said that when our naval personnel encountered personnel of other navies they would be held up to ridicule and suffer embarrassment. As a result, I believe, of the representations which were made, amendments were introduced in the committee, some of which we find in the bill now before us. Column I in schedule A of the bill shows the ranks which originally were listed in clause 4. The ranks shown in columns II, III and IV of schedule A are those now in effect in the navy, army and air force.

It was represented to the committee when this amendment was introduced by the minister that it would have the effect of making the ranks appearing in schedule A universal as far as documents, pay records and things of that nature were concerned. Apart from that, Mr. Chairman, it would be possible for officers and other ranks to use the rank designations which are in effect in the respective services at the present time if they were authorized by the governor general in council. The explanatory note says:

The amendment would result in the following changes in substance:

(a) ranks would be prescribed for the purposes of the Act only;