

War Appropriation—Army

Mr. RALSTON: I wish to put on record one paragraph of an order which has been brought to my attention. Paragraph 17 of routine order 1992 is as follows:

As a further measure of conserving tires and gasoline, all vehicles, except those at advanced training centres and centralized schools of instruction and vehicles required for urgent operational purposes, will be immobilized two full days each week. Neither of these two days will be a Sunday. On these days only the minimum number of administrative vehicles as are necessary to carry on proper routine will be allowed to operate and the drivers of such vehicles will be provided with permits signed by their commanding officer.

That is, two gasless days for these particular establishments. If I remember correctly, they have a gasless day in England as well.

Mr. ADAMSON: Does the minister say, "not advanced training centres"? Does it not include advanced training centres?

Mr. RALSTON: It states:

. . . except those at advanced training centres and centralized schools of instruction and vehicles required for urgent operational purposes. . . .

Mr. ADAMSON: It includes everything in England.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): When the minister is getting information regarding the supply of gasoline to army vehicles, will he tell us what companies have these contracts, and how much has been given to each company.

While I am on my feet I should like to place on record this paragraph appearing in the *Winnipeg Free Press* of May 29, 1943, under a Washington date line of May 28:

Howe Reviews Production

Canadian arms and military equipment production has reached such a stage of output that there can now be some easing up on restricted production of civilian equipment, according to Hon. C. D. Howe, Canadian Minister of Munitions and Supply, in Washington to-day. Specifically mentioned by Mr. Howe as items which may be supplied now in larger degree for civilian use are farm machinery, railway rails, textiles and repair parts for power plants.

I point out to the minister that, according to the report, the impression was given to the public that we have now reached peak production in the output of war materials, and that it would be possible to turn Canada's production machinery to producing consumer goods. I merely point out that this is rather out of harmony with the statement of the Minister of National Defence.

Item agreed to.

[Mr. G. K. Fraser.]

On item 11—Sundries, including printing, stationery, telephones, telegrams and other costs not included in above items.

Mr. GRAYDON: This is a sufficiently important item to warrant a break-down. When the minister is giving the break-down, would he tell the committee if the item with respect to printing covers any of the advertising for the reserve army, or recruiting generally?

Mr. RALSTON: I have not a break-down showing the amounts for telegrams and telephones. Printing and stationery stands at \$9,400,000; training equipment, not provided elsewhere, \$400,000; and sundries, \$4,800,000.

The increase in printing and stationery is due to the fact that, with the increased personnel in the United Kingdom the expenditures for printing and stationery, telephone and telegrams has risen more than proportionately because United Kingdom costs are higher than in Canada. The increase is something like \$5,000,000.

Mr. GRAYDON: Will the minister give the committee the costs of telephonic and telegraphic communications?

Mr. RALSTON: I thought an order for a return had been passed recently with respect to telephones.

Mr. GRAYDON: And telegrams?

Mr. RALSTON: I should like to be heard on it when it comes up.

Mr. ROSS (Souris): There was a return tabled a few days ago in answer to a question standing in my name. This is the only item which shows a reduction in the total amount. Would the minister tell the committee whether his department has private lines, like the Department of Munitions and Supply, or whether the business is done through the various commercial telephone companies?

Mr. RALSTON: We have no private telephone lines. All the business is done through the commercial companies. Of course, as the hon. member knows, we have teletype circuits.

Mr. GREEN: This item looks as though it includes a good deal of the red tape.

Mr. RALSTON: Not if it refers to telephones and telegrams.

Mr. GREEN: Could the minister say whether there has been any reduction in the paper war in the last year?

Mr. RALSTON: I have not here the text of a directive, as it is called—the modern term—which was issued, and sent out in simple language; nor have I mentioned the