

Mr. CARTER: No. I am not particularly interested in that. Has there been any reduction? How does it happen that there is a difference in your actual expenditures?

Mr. LALONDE: It is because at the beginning of the year the x-ray film library was moved to a building in Hull. We had put in the estimates a certain amount for the commissionaires services in that building in anticipation of the move. But the Department of Public Works made arrangements in the lease. They had an item covering protective services. So they informed us of that item and we decided not to have a commissionaire.

For a period of time we did not have a commissionaire. But after a few months we found that it was not working, so we reinstated the commissionaire. However, in the meantime there was put in an estimated amount, and that amount stands because there was a gap during which no commissionaire was paid for that work.

Mr. CARTER: It looked to me as if you anticipated increased expenditure, but it actually did not materialize. I wondered what the plans were. Can you say what you paid these commissionaires?

Mr. LALONDE: Yes. We paid them the rate for Ottawa which is \$1.19 all told, and which includes \$1.10 for the commissionaire, and nine cents for the administration of the corps.

Mr. HERRIDGE: I think most of the committee know that the corps of commissionaires was formed many years ago, commencing in Great Britain, to provide some employment for ageing veterans.

A few years ago I discovered that a civilian, without any service whatever was employed as a member of the corps of commissionaires, and was actually employed by the Department of Veterans Affairs. When that was brought to the attention of the department, the situation was corrected.

Can the deputy minister assure us that all commissionaires employed by the Department of Veterans Affairs are men who have had military service?

Mr. LALONDE: That is a difficult assurance to give, because as you will understand, I do not personally know all those who are members of the corps of commissionaires. All I can say is that I believe, truthfully, that the corps of commissionaires has not, since then, tried to place any non-veteran in work to be done for the department. Otherwise I would have heard about it.

They may have non-veterans in jobs which they do for civilians, but I have no control over that, and neither does the department. As a matter of fact fifty per cent of their work is done for firms other than governmental departments.

Mr. CARTER: There is nothing in the constitution or charter of the corps of commissionaires to prevent them from taking any civilians.

Mr. LALONDE: I do not think so.

Mr. HERRIDGE: I looked up this matter very thoroughly when an old veteran came up to me from the Department of Veterans Affairs and said there was a man employed in that block who had never had any service. I believe Mr. Parliament investigated the matter at the time and the situation was corrected immediately. But I wanted to make sure that it would not recur.

Mr. LALONDE: That happened before my time; but I believe that when the corps was formed, it was formed under a government charter for the purpose of assisting older veterans in employment. While this was evidently the accepted purpose, I do not think there was any prohibition mentioned in the charter; in other words, there was no negative clause in the charter. There was however a positive clause to employ older veterans.