

*National Defence*

Does the government expect the men leaving the Korea force to feel that they are getting a square deal? They are volunteers who have served in the front line in a foreign theatre of war. In world war II men who were in the service for only a few days and discharged as unsatisfactory received far better treatment than these men are getting. The Korea veteran feels that the treatment he is getting is an insult to the service he has given. He is right; it is an insult to men who immediately answered the call to duty in the summer of 1950 when this country found itself so tragically unprepared owing to the policies of this government.

The pleas that this government made to those men at that time bear little relationship to the treatment they are being given now. I believe that if the volunteer system is to be satisfactory this government must learn to treat men as well after they have completed their service as it did when it was pleading with them to undertake that service. I hope that the government will realize the mistake it has made in refusing to pay the men of the Korea force the allowance to which they are entitled and which they very much need. I hope that this government will act generously towards those who have served their country gallantly and well and will provide discharge benefits in keeping with the services that these fighting men have rendered.

**Mr. E. W. George (Westmorland):** Mr. Speaker, I rise to take part in this debate after having looked over the speeches that have been made already, and after listening to members of the opposition speak this afternoon, and this applies practically to all the opposition, it would seem that they forget that Canada has only 14 million people and the form of defence and the types of troops and formations that we should have bear no relation to our present population and our industrial outlook.

I want first to deal briefly with the reserve. The hon. member for Calgary East (Mr. Harkness) deplored in his speech the fact that the minister had not mentioned the reserve. Far be it from me to assume the role of the minister in answering for the reserve, but I do believe that I am the only member in this house who is actively commanding a regiment of that type today. There are some who are members of the reserve, but I feel that I know the reserve army better than anyone in the House of Commons with the exception of the minister.

It is most annoying, not only to a member of parliament but to the members of the

reserve army, to hear it said that some members of the reserve—I am sure the hon. member did not intend to leave this inference, but nevertheless it is there—join primarily for purposes of athletics or to have the benefits of a social club. That may be true in one or two cases, but by the same token you may say that in the past a member of parliament has forfeited his seat because he was a communist. The same parallel would exist.

I was in the NPAM previous to the war and I am in the reserve army today. I think the reserve is in the best shape it has ever been in. I do not think I need to dwell on this because many hon. members have covered it previously. I remember devoting one whole speech of mine to the reserve army, and I know that several other members have referred to this.

The junior member for Queens (Mr. MacLean) made the statement that he did not know of any battle that had been won by the blowing of horns since the battle of Jericho. That may be correct, but the fact is that unless we blow our own horns occasionally no one else will do it for us. I am going to indulge in that pastime right now. The regiment I command is an armoured regiment and is a member of the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps Association. That association has five trophies which can be won by an armoured corps unit. My regiment, the 8th Princess Louise's (NB) Hussars, has won four of the five trophies and was runner up for the fifth. I think that is horn blowing that is justifiable. I do not take credit for that myself because I just happen to be the custodian for the time being of a famous regiment. We have in our regiment a spirit that is unknown in many regiments. In fact, if I were going to criticize certain parts of the reserve army, I would not criticize the units but rather some of the officers. There are no poor units, there are only poor officers.

I think the Department of National Defence could well assess some of these units that are existing on paper only. There are a few of them with a membership in the officers' and sergeants' messes only. I think serious consideration should be given to placing these units on the dormant list until such time as they can be more active. I know that some of my friends in the reserve will criticize me for saying this, but I really believe that that is a fact.

I am going to direct most of my remarks this evening to the hon. member for Nanaimo (Mr. Pearkes). Half-colonels often disagree with major generals, but not very successfully. It can be done more successfully in peacetime than in war. The hon. member