

Supply—National Defence

Friday, that the payment of a re-engagement bonus may not bring any new people into the services but if it helps to retain the good men already in the forces it will have achieved a most worth-while purpose.

Another point I should like to make deals again with the human factor and morale. I refer to the matter of the accommodation provided for our men and women in the services. A few years ago when the hon. member for Calgary North was minister of national defence I asked him on a number of occasions to come to Camp Gagetown and to Oromocto, the city adjacent to the camp, and persuaded him not to have constructed any more of the so-called row housing. However, within the last year or two a great many units of this particular type have been built in Oromocto. I realize that many people in this nation live in apartments, that many people are living in accommodation that is not as good as the so-called row housing. But I would suggest to the Minister of National Defence and the Associate Minister that in spite of the extra \$1,000 or \$2,000 cost for each unit that is constructed we would be much further ahead if we constructed single family dwellings for the people in our armed services.

I realize that those units already started will have to be finished but I do urge that the minister should not continue the building of this row housing elsewhere. When you crowd families together with small children involved and having in mind also the exigencies of the service, I think one family under one roof is a very good idea or, just as the Chinese used to say, one woman to one home. I would ask the government and the minister specifically to consider this point in the future. I am sure the minister will.

Another point I should like to make is in connection with the soldiers' vote. The soldiers' vote is not a very happy subject for most Conservative members of Parliament to discuss. We seem to get a rather bad trimming at every election. It is rather difficult to understand this because we have their interests at heart too. Many of us have worn the uniform of the armed services of this nation. But there is an aspect of the soldiers' vote that I suggest should be looked into. It is the fact that some soldiers are enumerated twice. Here is the situation that developed in my constituency in the last election. Those soldiers living in homes in Fredericton and elsewhere in the various towns along the

Saint John River were enumerated and, of course, shown as being in the services.

These men can vote at their home polls on election day and can also, I understand, vote in the service poll. All soldiers can vote in the service poll. I do not think I am incorrect in that. The net result is that it gives the opportunity for soldiers to vote twice. I do not say they do so; I would never make that assertion. But this is what actually happened in my constituency in the last election. We arranged with those who were supporting the Liberal cause in York-Sunbury that all soldiers who were enumerated should be deleted from the so-called civilian enumeration list and should vote in Camp Gagetown.

This was the situation. I do not like to put it on the record but I shall. We made the agreement that we would ask for half the soldiers in the city to be struck from the record and this was done on the understanding that the Liberal organizer would have the same thing done in the other half of the city. They did not fulfil their part of the agreement. We were neatly mousetrapped in this respect and a great deal of ill will was created.

I do not say you can legislate for matters such as this. You cannot legislate honesty and integrity. But I should like to make a suggestion to the minister which I am sure he will take into account. I suggest that the regulations in relation to the soldiers' vote be so amended that all soldiers vote in the service poll. There could then never be any doubt whatsoever about this matter.

There is another point I should like to make, Mr. Chairman, and it is a logistical one. I mention that I am more interested in the human factor. However, this question refers to the movement of our troops to any part of the world. I come back to our own Camp Gagetown. Beside Camp Gagetown we have an excellent airport which happens to be under the jurisdiction of the Department of Transport. The runways are not quite long enough to take the very large aircraft that are shortly to come into service. The DC-9's are an example. Within the next week or so a full battalion, I understand, of the Black Watch are to be moved to northern Norway well within the Arctic Circle. As the minister knows, this will be perhaps one of the most ambitious exercises of its kind ever attempted by the armed forces of this country.

● (4:20 p.m.)

They can be transported by Hercules aircraft which can use the Fredericton airport.