

Supply—National Defence

up and put it into shape to put before the committee. How that would help the committee, I do not know.

Mr. Drew: Well, Mr. Chairman, I must confess I am unable to understand the resistance of the minister as to something that is the regular practice in the other departments. Just as an example, let me refer to page 382 of the estimates, resources and development. On that page it starts, departmental administration, and that is what we are considering here. The first item is "One deputy minister and commissioner of the Northwest Territories, \$15,000." Then it gives the "assistant deputy minister, planning; assistant deputy minister, administration; director of administration." Then, you go on down through the whole list in which you have the details. For instance, there are thirteen clerks, grade 4, salaries from \$2,568 to \$2,904, and then the total is given, \$31,227.

Then, a little further on there is another example, "Nine clerks, grade 2A, \$1,560-\$2,088;" and so on with the rest of the employees of the department. Then, you will find that where there are people employed in this department at casual rates, or at what are described as prevailing rates, they are lumped under the total sum and the number. It is either one of two things; either this book of estimates is brought together on a most inefficient and unnecessarily complicated basis by including these figures for other departments, or else there is some reason for it. It seems to me the reason for it is so the members of this house will have an idea of the salary level of the various categories of civilian employees. No matter what may apply to service employees, civilian employees are in exactly the same category in the Department of National Defence as any other department. Frankly, Mr. Chairman, I find it extremely difficult to believe these figures are not readily available, because I would imagine we would have had a report a long time ago from the Auditor General that the accounts of the Department of National Defence were kept on an entirely different basis than any other department if those figures are not available right now.

Mr. Claxton: I am sorry to have to assure the hon. leader of the opposition that, from the information which I have at this stage, those figures are not available right now. We made up our estimate and kept our accounts in accordance with the directions of the Auditor General, and those figures have not been included.

Now, he has referred to page 282 of the estimates where there is a reference to 63 employees. If we are going to do that for the Department of National Defence, with 30,000 civilian employees, it will run to an awful lot of paper and it will not do anyone very much good. If that had been desired, it might have been indicated before, and then could have been considered. But the estimates have been made up in the form in which they have following the recommendations of the public accounts committee and the Auditor General last year; that is the form in which we have the material available. I shall be glad to give hon. members any information that is before me, and I shall be glad to get any information that they think it desirable to place before the committee. But I do suggest it is very desirable that we should consider the cost of obtaining this, and the advantages that might result.

Mr. Drew: Mr. Chairman, the Minister of National Defence is really creating bogeys that do not exist. I have in my hand the army estimates for the present year for the United Kingdom. At page 72 of those army estimates I find, for instance, "civilians attached to regimental units." That is only one group, and that amounts to 5,438. It is not just a handful of people. In each case it gives the salary level; it gives the number and gives the total. I might say that that total, being 5,438, with the designation, the salaries and the totals, is all contained on one page of this book. When we are told that this would entail such a prohibitive cost and would be so difficult, I would only say that the minister would be following the practice that is well established, to which we have referred on numerous occasions and one which I am satisfied their records would now give, without any complicated detail.

Mr. Warren: Does it give their telephone numbers?

Mr. Drew: I shall not say what I intended to say.

The Deputy Chairman: Order.

Mr. Ross (Souris): I do not think the hon. member could handle them.

Mr. Drew: All through this book the same practice is followed. For instance, on the preceding page, there is given "civilians at command headquarters and other headquarters establishments, 17,350." There again you have the salary levels, the number, and the total; and in those cases whether they are employing people at current levels as the minister did, they give it in that way in a bulk figure.