

*Canadian Forces Act*

in Germany. Whether or not we like it, the Germans are a well disciplined, orderly and workmanlike people. There is nothing they appreciate or understand more than a smart, well turned out soldier with a high regard for his regiment. I mention that simply to indicate that I think the action of the government in issuing the booklet is good. When the units of the 27th brigade leave the continent, should the crisis ever be resolved, I trust that they will leave with the same good will toward them as there was for our navy when it left the Mediterranean.

I want to repeat the final signal to our navy from the admiral at Gibraltar. He said: Good-bye, Canada, you were a breath of fresh air to this old sea. I am sure that our troops going to Europe today with that high ideal and high resolve will bring a breath of fresh air to that tired and rather demoralized continent.

**Mr. Claxton:** The remarks and suggestions of the hon. members who have spoken on this resolution are warmly appreciated and will be given the most serious consideration. With very few exceptions I think all were really outside the terms of the resolution but since hon. members have advanced them perhaps I may be allowed a similar freedom in commenting on them briefly. First, with respect to the question of welfare and educational services, which was mentioned by several hon. members, a statement was made in the house on this subject on October 29, and is to be found at page 477 of *Hansard*. It deals with both the services that are now being provided and some of the reasons why we feel we cannot do more at the present time. I emphasize that. Conditions in Korea are very different from those in western Europe as we knew them in the first or second world wars. Our force is a different type of force in some respects.

In his interesting remarks the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre referred to the fact that there are seven or eight men back of each man in the front line. I believe that would be a fair estimate, for the situation that arises in a full scale war with base workshops, reinforcement and training depots. The number might even be larger. Here we have endeavoured to keep the overhead just as low as possible in regard to personnel not engaged in actual operations. Speaking from memory, my guess would be that the figures in this case are actually the reverse and that we have seven or eight men in fighting formations for every man back of them on administrative or similar jobs.

Canadians have a habit, which is well known to all of us, of comparing the things we do with the things that are done in

Britain or the United States. Having made that comparison we usually expect that we will give our people not the best there is in the United States or in Britain, but the best there is anywhere. This is a desirable aim, and it is our aim today. In addition to having, by arrangement, all the welfare services the United States has that are available to us in the theatre, and all the services the commonwealth troops have that are available in the theatre where our troops are engaged, we also have the additional services I mentioned that we provide. If we duplicated everything it would not be carrying out that kind of combined operation we are aiming to have in Korea. The forces of thirteen countries are there, and if each one of us set up the different services and had our own supply lines and the like, it would add greatly to the burden on transportation already involved.

As I indicated, we have with the brigade in Korea six full-time welfare officers and additional N.C.O.'s and men engaged in full-time welfare activities. We have also thirteen chaplains. Altogether this I am informed totals more personnel engaged on these services, in comparison of the number engaged, than were engaged in similar services in western Europe. It has been asked whether or not we are doing everything possible. Unfortunately it has not been possible for me to go to Korea yet. I intended to go last May, then in June and then in July, but it has not been possible. I asked Brigadier Rockingham, when saying good-bye to him at Fort Lewis, to report to me personally if he ever felt that there was anything the troops needed. In Japan as liaison officers we have had Brigadier Fleury, succeeded by Brigadier Bernatchez, former commanding officer of the 22nd, both very experienced officers; yet no one of them has reported that they want anything additional in the way of welfare or educational services or food or clothing. From what I know of Brigadier Rockingham and the officers serving with him in that theatre, they would be the first to see that their men got whatever it was possible to give them.

Further, at my invitation the heads of the four principal churches visited Korea. On their departure I sent each one a personal message expressing the appreciation of the department and services that they should have undertaken this visit; and I asked them to bring to my attention personally, either at once or on their return, anything that they thought should be done. They are not all back as yet, but so far I have heard nothing in that regard. The hon. member for Vancouver-Quadra quoted a press report of an