

War Appropriation—Army

that there should be, in the larger communities particularly, some one of the numerous government agencies in those communities whose responsibility it shall be to assist soldiers' wives and dependents in securing housing. In Toronto and greater Toronto the situation is desperate. There is no government agency whose responsibility it is or that has any authority or power to assist these people in securing homes. The situation there is peculiar. We have no Wartime Housing. The people who work in different industries come to those industries from all parts of the city; and, because there is no demand on the part of a great number of employers from one industry, Wartime Housing refuses to give the city war-time houses. The result is that war workers, by reason of their reasonably better pay, are crowding into all parts of the city; soldiers' wives and their dependents are being crowded out, and there is no one responsible for looking after their interests. I suggest that some arrangement be made with other departments of the government to enable the wife of the soldier who is serving overseas to secure adequate accommodation for herself and her family.

I have here one instance. A man returned from overseas and was, I think, a month in Canada. While he was away, his wife had been unable to get a home. She had to separate the family, part of the family living with some relatives, others living with others. He came home just before Christmas. He appealed to me to see if I could find a home in which he could bring his family together in order that he might spend Christmas with them. I applied to every welfare agency in the community, and between them they found it impossible to secure a home in which that man could gather together his family and establish them before he went overseas.

I had another instance, of a soldier's wife, with two children, who was ejected from her home and the house sold by permission of the court. No single agency in the city or suburbs could find a home for that woman. Finally, although she was living in the suburbs of Toronto, she and her children had to move into a room over a downtown restaurant, where, in order to reach her home, she had to take her children through the kitchen of the restaurant.

These are only indications of the situation in Toronto and possibly in other large centres. Certainly, anything that the minister can do in cooperation with other departments of government to relieve that situation will add to the building of the morale of the men in our armed forces and of those in our communities who want to support them.

[Mr. Noseworthy.]

I should like to ask a further question, regarding soldiers' pay. The minister outlined yesterday three conditions on which the increase in pay is granted. In the case of soldiers overseas who did not take basic training, are they required, in order to get that increased pay to take some form of basic training? Are any soldiers overseas debarred from that increase on account of inefficiency? It seems to me that, once a man has reached the stage where he has been drafted for overseas, he should, on the ground of efficiency, be automatically accepted for the increase in pay. So far as soldiers overseas are concerned, the public of this country—I cannot speak for the armed forces, but this is true of any persons with whom I have conversed—would support the department in making that increase automatic, without stipulating the three conditions which the minister laid down yesterday.

I do not know the feeling of other hon. members in regard to the matter, but it seems to me the minister would facilitate discussion of these estimates if we could have something by way of a breakdown in advance of the different estimates. If we could have only one mimeographed sheet, for instance, covering one or two of the headings in the summary, it would help. We have spent nearly a week in discussing two items, and I think most of the time was spent because hon. members are trying to get information. We do not know enough about the workings of the department to ask intelligent questions about expenditures which are involved in these large amounts. I fail to see how any hon. member can vote intelligently on a \$539,000,000 item which is set forth in only three words, and we shall have to wait two years before we get any details of these items. Two years from now they will be recorded for us in the auditor general's report.

Mr. MacNICOL: There is really nothing in the auditor general's report.

Mr. NOSEWORTHY: I suggest that the minister give us some break-down. There must have been one prepared by his department in order to arrive at these totals. I submit it would help hon. members in the discussion if, even though the notes were meagre, they could be provided in mimeographed sheets for us to examine.

Mr. MacNICOL: I wish to ask the minister something in connection with the method of medical inspection. We have read from time to time many press reports—one quite recently—in reference to the number of soldiers who have been discharged from the army. J