

Canadian Forces Act

Canadian people generally should know. If they are not getting the best that can be provided then I think that fact should also be made known and we should all be given an opportunity to suggest remedies.

Our young men have been called on in such a short time after the last world war to go out and make sacrifices again, and I know that every single member of this house would insist just as much as I do that these young Canadians be given the best services that can be obtained. It certainly looks as if they are not getting that type at the present time.

Mr. Gillis: Unfortunately some of us are members of a very important committee that is to meet at 3.30. Otherwise I think this resolution should get a thorough going over before the bill is introduced. The amendments it is proposed to introduce by way of legislation, as envisaged by the resolution, certainly fall short of what I think is required. With reference to the point raised by the hon. member for Vancouver-Quadra as to entertainment and welfare services in Korea, I should like to say that I received a letter directly from Korea last May from a person who has been there since the first troops were landed. He is one in whom I have supreme confidence that he is not only there to serve his country well—he did that in the last war—but is completely reliable and reasonable in anything he might expect by way of comforts or pleasure.

His letter indicated that, so far as recreation was concerned, they were charitable patients depending on the Americans and the British. He did not make any particular request as to what should be done but he thought something should be established similar to what we had in the last war, for example, the Legion war services. I wrote the department on this matter and received an answer from the minister that he was taking it up with the proper officials, and he did so. I received a letter from one of the officials who apparently have to do with this matter, and it sounded almost resentful that anyone should suggest that everything was not being done that should be done. It definitely stated that everything was all right. It was quite a lengthy document.

Since that time I have met boys who have come back from Korea and they confirm the fact that recreational facilities leave much to be desired. I am not going to make any recommendations as to what the minister should do about it. That is his job. I think the least that should be done is to place our boys in the position that when they come out of the line they will not have to go to the

Americans or the British as charitable patients. They should have their own place to go to and the right to go into a Canadian canteen. Most members of the house know what it is like to walk into the other fellow's canteen when there is a shortage of beer or cigarettes. They do not want to see you there when there is little enough for themselves. I want to support the hon. member for Vancouver-Quadra in his statement that there is a necessity for the minister to check up on welfare facilities available to our men in Korea.

I notice the minister is proposing amendments to the act in regard to superannuation of members of the permanent force and related services. Well, that is all to the good. I hope that those drafting the legislation will recall something I have said several times during the past year concerning the way in which the act is now applied to members of the permanent force. They may pay into that fund for 10 or 15 years, then incur some disability that is not related to military service as such and pass away while in the service. What happens then? The dependents receive what the man paid in plus a little interest, but minus the income tax.

Several times I have put a case on the records in which a captain in the service incurred a heart condition, and despite the fact that he was in the war the Department of Veterans Affairs stated that his death was not attributable in any way to his war service. I still claim it was largely caused by the stress and strain of the war, but the medical experts in the department do not agree. His widow received the money he had paid into the superannuation fund, minus \$650 which the income tax department took. When you are redrafting this act for service personnel, I think some safeguard should be put in there. This woman has not been able to establish a claim to a dependent's pension, because she is not old enough. She has not been able to get any help under war veterans allowance, despite the fact that she lives 20 miles away from any place where she can obtain employment and is tied down by two children. I feel that that is a very poor return to a person who had given so much to the service. I feel that particular thing should be taken care of when you are redrafting this act.

Yesterday I said, and I am going to repeat it for the benefit of the minister, that the dependents allowance requires overhauling. The maximum appears to be \$126 a month. I am badly affected because there have been a lot of enlistments in my part of the country. A married man goes into the service and leaves his wife and three or four children to live in a home he is building upon which