

The purpose of the bill as to its immediate application is to give to the Minister of National Defence for Air the authority of the Minister of National Defence with respect to any matters which may come up in the manner I have described. At first glance the proposal appears involved, but hon. members will on reflection see that it is quite simple and also very necessary. It may be made readily apparent by considering just one concrete example of the working of the proposed arrangement. An acting minister might perform certain duties, but he would not have the same authority as a minister who has been given his powers by statute. It is to enable whoever acts as associate minister to assume full authority, not only in his own eyes but in the eyes of officials and other members of staffs of the Department of National Defence, and also in the eyes of the public, to act for and in full authority as Minister of National Defence, whenever the minister may be absent, or whenever in relation to some particular matter the minister himself may so request, that this additional provision is being made."

2. DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL WAR SERVICES, PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH OF JULY 12th

In moving the second reading of Bill No. 75, establishing a Department of National War Services, the Prime Minister said:—

"The purposes for which the government proposes to establish the Department of National War Services were given to the House in general terms by myself on June 18, and again on the 8th instant.

The department among other matters will have to do with the due execution of some of the purposes of the National Resources Mobilization Act. Certain of the purposes of the mobilization act involve functions which will be performed by departments of the government already in existence. Others do not so readily fit into any existing department. There is need, moreover, for seeing that all functions of the act are properly co-ordinated.

The most immediate and pressing of the duties to be discharged under the act is the conducting of a national registration. The minister of the new department will be charged with this responsibility. As I have already informed the House, the preliminary work of organization has been completed by a special departmental committee. No time therefore is being lost in proceeding with the registration itself. It will no doubt be necessary, from time to time, to make under the act further specialized surveys. Such surveys may, as required, be undertaken by the new department.

The war services department will also have the duty of directing to suitable fields of service those who have voluntarily placed their services at the disposal of the government. The co-ordination of the