

An hon. MEMBER: Where were you in the last war?

Mr. HOMUTH: Where were you? All you have been interested in in this house is the baby bonus because you are the biggest man to get it. I want to say to the minister this, that what he has stated in the house is not according to the evidence that many of us have, because men have been taken from the artillery and other units and within three weeks have been shoved up to the front line. So that when the minister says it takes five or six weeks he is not telling the absolute truth.

An hon. MEMBER: Name a case.

Mr. HOMUTH: I could name a dozen. Wouldn't you love to have them? What a trimming you would give them!

Mr. SPEAKER: Order. As I just came into the house the hon. member for Waterloo South (Mr. Homuth) was making a statement against the Minister of National Defence, saying that something he had said was not true. The hon. member for Waterloo South will understand that the Minister of National Defence, although he is not a member of this house yet, is a member of the government and offensive words cannot be said to him. I would ask the hon. member to withdraw that statement.

Mr. HOMUTH: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the minister is not a member of the house, actually I do not have to withdraw the statement I made—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, yes.

Mr. HOMUTH: Just you fellows shut up for a minute. You are in a hot spot and you wonder where you are going. I know darned well where you are going. You are going into oblivion.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order. I have made a request of the hon. member.

Mr. HOMUTH: And I am going to withdraw my remark, Mr. Speaker, that the minister made an untruthful statement. But I do want to register my objection to his statement, because it is not according to the facts that I have.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member withdraws the statement he made against the minister.

Mr. NOSEWORTHY: General McNaughton, a parent informed me a few days ago that his son overseas was transferred from an artillery unit to the infantry and was a casualty within two weeks of the time he had

been remustered. Would you say that that parent was misinformed and that such a situation could not possibly occur?

Mr. McNAUGHTON: I could give no such assurance to the hon. member. I have myself in the last war seen men who have transferred from the artillery to the infantry direct from unit to unit. The case cited by the hon. member is an individual case that may and will happen, but it is not in accordance with the instructions which have been laid down. If he will give me the name, I shall have inquiries made and see what the facts are.

Mr. NOSEWORTHY: I have a telegram here which I shall be pleased to give to the minister, if necessary.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I would say to my hon. friend that if he is going to read from a communication on a public matter he will have, if requested, to give it to the house in full. I ask him to tell us to whom the telegram is addressed, and whom it is from?

Mr. NOSEWORTHY: Mr. Speaker, in a similar case last year I was challenged and instructed by the chairman of the committee to table a letter from which I read. I complied with his instructions. The next day I received the letter back from the Clerk of the House saying that since it was a personal letter it could not be tabled in the house. This is a telegram to a member of the house signed by a citizen, and I want your ruling, Mr. Speaker, as to whether I must give all the details if I read part of the telegram.

Mr. COLDWELL: Before you give your ruling, Mr. Speaker, I would refer you to the standing order and citation 289 on page 94 of Beauchesne's Parliamentary Rules and Forms, second edition. Citation 289 reads:

The rule respecting the production of public papers, quoted by a minister of the crown, is necessary to give the house the same information he possesses and enable it to come to a correct conclusion on a question. It does not appear that the English Commons have ever applied this rule to the case of private members citing public documents not in the possession of the house.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: If the hon. member wishes to ask any questions, he is free to ask them, but if he desires to quote from a document in his hand he is bound, if requested, to give the house full particulars requested concerning the document.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): There is no rule on that point, Mr. Speaker. The rule cited refers to public documents.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: No, no. The house is entitled to know the authority on which the statement is being made if one