

Canadian Forces Act

are serving. I think the Canadian people will not take kindly to any policy that the government may have in mind whereby the great services rendered by these organizations in the past are now going to be forgotten and a new policy evolved in which they will play no part in the days that lie ahead. That is putting it very simply and plainly. I think the parliamentary assistant owes it to parliament and to the country to make abundantly clear what the government has in mind for the future.

Mr. Murray (Cariboo): While the Salvation Army, the Knights of Columbus and the Y.M.C.A. perform fine services, members of parliament are responsible for sending these boys to Korea. We voted to send them there and voted to participate not in a twilight war but in what seems to be a very serious encounter in a most unattractive part of the world. I say that every member of the house should make it his responsibility to adopt three or four of these boys over there on the Korean front and see that they receive letters and little gifts of tobacco, candy or whatever luxury may be in order. We should make it our own responsibility to see that their morale is maintained. They are doing a dirty job for us. It is our personal responsibility and we should not try to shift it to the Salvation Army or any other welfare organization.

Mr. Coldwell: The government should give particular attention to the provision of all auxiliary services that can be secured. When we realize that such services were welcomed in Europe in both wars we have even more reason to suggest them now in a country where the weather is difficult and the terrain equally so. If auxiliary services were needed in the European theatre in the last war they are needed even more in the Korean campaign. I think every opportunity should be given to those who organize auxiliary services to perform the same kind of service that they did in the last war.

I want to say, too, that I believe provisions should be made for the welfare of all types of boys who are over there. I know that, for example, beer has been sent to Korea for those who like a glass of beer. I am not one of those who would deny a man who likes it a glass of beer. I want to say that any other of the men who want to have a social conversation should be able to get, we will say, Coca-Cola, 7-up, or ginger ale or one of the soft drinks at a dry canteen. They could sit there without feeling obligated to partake of a beverage to which they are not accustomed. So I am making a plea, then, to the government to give all the facilities they can to the boys who are engaged in Korea, in training in Canada or on duty in Europe. They should

be provided with the opportunity of having a pleasant evening conversing with companions in canteens where only soft drinks are served.

I am happy to have noted, too, that the government has set up some educational facilities for the men over there, under a gentleman who during the last war had charge of that field for the air force. I understand that the men are being kept informed as to the progress of international and domestic affairs, and are given some opportunity of understanding the cause for which they are fighting. May I also suggest that these facilities should be extended, and that a well-rounded educational opportunity be given to these boys. While I am not what some might call a temperance crank, nonetheless it has been shown, by some unfortunate incidents recounted in the news reports, that there has been some over-indulgence and regrettable incidents on the part of a comparatively few members of the armed forces overseas. In view of the modern trend of thought and education, some effort should be made to inform the men, whether they be in Korea or elsewhere, as to the dangers of overindulgence in alcoholic liquors. We know more about that field today than we have ever known. A good many scientific investigations have been made by universities like Harvard, Yale and so on, as to the manner in which this problem should be treated. It seems to me that the government, the department and the house could do a very fine job for the welfare of the young men at the moment, and for the future of these young men, by undertaking a well thought out educational program stressing the dangers that are inherent in the use of alcohol. Stress could be laid on what it does to the system, and so on.

I am asking, first, that every facility be given to young men who may not desire to drink intoxicating liquor with their companions—there are many who do not—and that they be given the opportunity of relaxation in dry canteens. Then, the educational services should be given the obligation of conducting an educational program dealing with physical health, mental health and so on, and the dangers of a too free use of alcoholic beverages. I think that temperance teaching is needed everywhere; in the schools, colleges, the forces and wherever we have groups of men and women congregated. I am making that suggestion and I hope the government will carry it into effect.

Mr. Churchill: I believe we have reached a stage, Mr. Chairman, where the people require some statement of general policy from the government concerning this particular matter. Sufficient information has