

Minister of National Defence. It concerns the refusal of the Canadian armed forces to grant an exemption of one year to the president of the "Union Générale des Étudiants du Québec", which would have postponed for one year his enlistment in the Royal Canadian Air Force under the R.O.T.P. program.

Can the Associate Minister of National Defence advise the house whether he is aware of this refusal and whether it is his intention to make personal representations so that the armed forces grant this one-year exemption to allow the president to complete his mandate?

Mr. Speaker: Here again, I have doubts concerning the urgency or the general importance of the point raised by the hon. member in his question. It seems to me he could place it on the order paper and, if he prefers, raise it upon the adjournment motion.

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Speaker, with regard to the question of urgency, the president of U.G.E.Q. has resigned because he was not granted this exemption and, as his resignation is now being considered by the association, the members of the "Union Générale des Étudiants du Québec" would like an answer as soon as possible so as to know whether or not they should accept this resignation. That is why the matter is urgent.

Mr. Speaker: It may be urgent but it is hardly a matter of national importance. The hon. minister might communicate with the hon. member and give him his answer; the hon. member could then communicate with those concerned.

[English]

CORRECTION OF FIGURES OF RECRUITMENTS AND RELEASES

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, May 12 the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre (Mr. Churchill) asked a question concerning withdrawals from the armed forces in relation to recruitments. In reply I gave some figures which had been handed to me but which related to voluntary releases only, and the figures I gave for voluntary releases were for 1965 rather than 1966. In giving the figures I omitted reference to the fact that they represented voluntary releases only.

I can assure the house that the omission was inadvertent. However, I want to apologize to the hon. member and to the house for

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presenting the figures in this fashion, and for the obvious discrepancy with the figures given in answer to a written question on May 9.

[Later:]

Hon. Gordon Churchill (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Associate Minister of National Defence. I wonder whether he would participate with the Minister of National Defence in advising the house that he also made a mistake on May 12, when according to page 5041 of *Hansard* the Minister of National Defence said:

The Associate Minister has just given me figures which show that for the first three months of the year—

We have now had it disclosed that the figures were for 1965, and that the figures were wrong.

Hon. Leo Cadieux (Associate Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, the figures were wrong. The figures for 1966 were 1,600 instead of 2,400, so that actually the situation is not as bad as my hon. friend would paint it. I made a mistake in handing the figures to the minister because they were computed in a different way, so if I did mislead the hon. gentleman I would apologize; but I want to remind him that the figures are 1,606 compared to 2,300 and something.

CANADIAN CENTENNIAL

INVITATION TO COMMONWEALTH AIRMEN TRAINED IN CANADA

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Qu'Appelle): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Labour in his capacity as one of the vice chairman of the centennial committee. Would the minister take up with the centennial committee the possibility of inviting to our centennial celebrations those airmen of the commonwealth who trained in Canada under the commonwealth training plan during the war? In support of my request I put forward the fact that on my recent trip down under, the New Zealand and Australian air force veterans asked if this invitation would be forthcoming.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I am sure the hon. gentleman's remarks will be considered, but I doubt if this question can be asked at this time.