

Canadian Forces Act

of the service, but not to the civilian. We think it is only just that the same provision should extend to the civilian.

Section 26 relates to offences committed or commenced, but not disposed of, prior to the coming into force of the disciplinary parts of the National Defence Act on September 1, 1951. This point is now covered by order in council, P.C. 3417, dated July 4, 1951.

Section 28 would extend the operation of section 4 of the Official Secrets Act to cover persons who by reason of service with but not in the forces may have obtained information that should not be disclosed.

As I said, these changes are almost entirely of a technical nature or consequential upon the enactment of the National Defence Act and our experience with the operation of that act during the past year. I commend them to the consideration of the committee.

Mr. Green: Mr. Chairman, apparently the proposed bill is to include quite a few amendments to the National Defence Act. I suggest to the minister that he give consideration to an amendment having to do with the welfare and educational services. We now have troops in Korea and Europe and I believe that this question has become one of the most important to be dealt with by this parliament.

I was somewhat disturbed to hear over the radio last night and to read in the *Citizen* this morning a dispatch from Edmonton reporting an interview with the Primate of the Anglican Church, the Most Rev. Archbishop W. F. Barfoot, who has just returned from visiting the troops in Korea. The primate reported that he had visited every unit in Korea and had found the morale of the troops excellent, which we would expect. He also said that they were well clothed, well led and well fed. But he made this disturbing statement:

Not everything had been done that could be in the way of education and recreational facilities for front-line troops. Plans were projected but not yet in operation because the brigade could not spare many men from military duties.

That statement confirms what we have been hearing from the men themselves. For example, they say that there has been very little provision made for entertainment. Apparently what entertainment there is of United States origin. No Canadians have been sent out to provide entertainment, although I understand offers have been made by Canadian groups.

We also hear that, while radio broadcasts are provided, the troops do not have sufficient radios available to listen. I believe that the United States forces have at least one radio for every company. There may or may not be a similar provision for Canadian troops but my information is that there is no such

provision. We are also told that the troops cannot get Canadian cigarettes, that they cannot get pipes and that there is a shortage of reading material in Korea. Evidently because of the damp climate and the long wet periods paper books and other reading material do not last long, and therefore a larger supply is needed than would be the case in other climates. Apparently educational services are not very extensive.

I appreciate the great difficulties there must be in making provision for welfare and educational services. I do not suppose there has ever been a battle area where it has been more difficult to make adequate provision, but it does seem that some better method could be adopted. I understand that at the present time there is a staff captain welfare at brigade headquarters and a welfare officer with each of the units but that the duties of the welfare officer are not restricted to welfare services. He may be put on messing or other duties; it is not his sole job to look after welfare services for the unit.

My information may or may not be correct. I cannot vouch for the accuracy of all the details but the statement made by the primate shows that something must be done to bring about a better situation. I know that the minister is just as anxious as I am to have the best possible welfare services provided for the troops. I suggest to him that he have the situation investigated right away either by people in the government service who are not now in the Department of National Defence or perhaps by representatives of the national organizations which did such splendid work in providing welfare services for the Canadian forces during the second world war. I refer of course to the Canadian Legion, the Y.M.C.A., the Knights of Columbus and the Salvation Army.

It should be possible to get experts also from one or more of these organizations who could be flown to Korea to help make a survey of the situation and then make recommendations to the government. From my own experience in the first world war I think it is of great value to have these national organizations with the forces. They bring a home touch which cannot possibly be brought by welfare men in the fighting forces. There is a great deal of value in having the contact provided by the representatives of these national organizations.

For the time being I merely urge the minister to have an independent investigation of the whole situation made without delay. If our fighting forces are getting the best welfare and educational services that can be provided we should know about it. Their loved ones should know about it and the