

I started to say something on selective service. I said that the test of the machinery is, how it is working in the field. One of my main criticisms of selective service is that the offices are understaffed. The machine has been called upon to do a lot of work which it was not originally designed to do. Originally the majority of the offices were set up as unemployment insurance offices and they were staffed for that purpose. Second, selective service was dumped in on them. Third, the welfare officers' work was also passed into the unemployment insurance offices, plus the selective service offices. To-day there are some 80,000 ex-servicemen back in Canada discharged from this war, with very few welfare officers in the national selective service or national employment offices to take care of the work. In Nova Scotia there is one. This large group of ex-servicemen has to be taken care of through the rehabilitation regulations, which is considerable work and a job in itself. That is thrown upon the selective service offices as an additional burden. I believe the department has 4,500 men across Canada employed in the national selective service offices.

Mr. MITCHELL: Men and women.

Mr. GILLIS: Men and women. From conversation with people who I think are in a position to judge, there should be approximately 2,000 more people in those offices in order to do this work and do it properly. That is one of the first things that should be done. If the machine is to function properly, it will have to be given the necessary personnel to do the job.

One complaint I have to make is that the Department of Labour allowed to get out of its control the organization of production committees and labour-management committees. That belongs to the Department of Labour. It is now under the Department of Munitions and Supply, but I think the department has altogether too much authority, too much work to do in its own field, without usurping the machinery that rightfully belongs to the Department of Labour. These labour-management committees, if properly set up, could do a wonderful service, working in cooperation with national selective service, in ironing out the many difficulties they have to handle, and the Minister of Labour would be well advised to insist on the completion of that organization and the direction of it back under the Department of Labour instead of leaving it under munitions and supply.

Mr. MITCHELL: The production committee is a joint body comprising munitions and supply and labour.

[Mr. Gillis.]

Mr. GILLIS: I hope it will soon start to work. It should be wholly in the Department of Labour.

Mr. MacINNIS: It will get no sympathy under munitions.

Mr. GILLIS: I think that is why it was taken over there. Another phase of selective service that requires checking up is the necessary coordination between the call-up boards and the national defence boards. This happens in many cases. Selective service sends out a notification that a man must report for medical examination to one of the national defence boards. The man loses a day's work reporting to the board and taking the medical examination. If he is fit he is sent into the service, but in many cases he is declared unfit and is placed perhaps in category E, and he goes back to work. The next week he gets another call from the same people back to the same board. I have known men to go through that routine twenty different times. A man is unfit and is turned down by the national defence board, and he reports that he has already had a call, but he receives another notice and he loses another day's work going through the same machinery. When he reports that he has received a call they will tear up that reply, but the next week he will get the call again.

Mr. MITCHELL: If my hon. friend has the name I should be glad if he would give it to me personally.

Mr. GILLIS: I will give the minister half a dozen of them.

Mr. MITCHELL: I shall be glad to have them.

Mr. GILLIS: That is particularly true in the Toronto district. That is the fault of national defence. The thing to do is to have the national defence board, whenever a man is categorized as unfit, send in notification to the national selective service giving the record to show that this man has been reported in category E and that there is a special file made of his case, so that there will not be a repetition of the call-up week after week.

The hon. member for Davenport introduced the question of shipbuilding as applied to the Toronto shipyards. National selective service definitely have a responsibility there. Under the regulations, before an employee can be dismissed from his job he must be given seven days' notice. There are 289 men affected at the Toronto shipbuilding yards. These men were dismissed without reference to the national selective service regulations. That was a week ago this past Friday, and these