

*War Appropriation—Army*

the minister there is going to be no room for anybody else here this afternoon. If I were trying to discredit parliamentary government in Canada, what has been going on here the last two or three days is exactly the technique I would adopt.

Mr. POULIOT: Speaking to the point of order, Mr. Chairman, I protest strongly against what the hon. member, for whom I have great respect, has just said. I will tell him that it is only by unanimous consent that we can divide up these so-called estimates, which are not estimates, and discuss them one by one. We have a global amount of three and a half billion dollars which we have to consider as a whole. It is not divided up, here, and when this resolution passes, the whole amount will be voted and then a bill will be introduced. The items we have before us are just a lead. There is no rule that binds any hon. member to restrict his remarks to any particular item, because we are discussing the whole thing. I complained at the start that these were not presented as supplementary estimates. How can any member raise this point of order when what is before us is the whole amount of three and a half billion dollars? It is the entire amount we have to consider. It has been divided up merely for convenience to enable explanations to be made to members. But the discussion cannot be divided up except by unanimous consent.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): It was divided by unanimous consent.

Mr. POULIOT: The hon. member for Lethbridge, leader of the New Democracy group, asked for some information. The minister rose, and I did not say anything. If an hon. member has anything to say, let him go on. I do not intend to monopolize the time of the house. How many times have we been sitting here when I did not rise, so as to give a chance to other members to put their questions and make their remarks? But here I have facts which I want to bring to the attention of the minister, and I will tell him also that I am sure all the learned men he has mentioned never had any knowledge of the questions I have with regard to what has happened at the citadel in Quebec, the camp at Rimouski, and the camp at Valcartier, which are three places where reforms should be made. I ask the minister in all kindness not to take for granted that when a civilian talks about the way men are dealt with in the army, he does not know his business because he is neither a soldier nor a doctor. He has eyes to see and ears to listen. We know these men and

[Mr. Gillis.]

respect them. What I am doing now is not easy; it is extremely hard for me to do it, but I do it because I find it is my duty; I do it for the information of the committee. And I am not afraid to speak in this way, because if there is any member who has conveyed information to his colleagues it is the humble member for Témiscouata. I am not stingy about the information I have; I am always glad to share it with my colleagues.

The file I have been referring to is not a file of 1940. The file of 1940 is a real novel; it would be incredible, if the records were not kept in the department. I was answering to the best of my ability the hon. member for Lethbridge, when the minister rose. I do not object at all to his remarks. He was right, in the main; but there are other fellows who cover themselves with the glory which belongs to others, and people suffer on this account; the army suffers from it. I am here to advocate the cause of the under-dog, the man who has no protection, the man who is afraid to talk to others at times and who comes to me in all confidence, being sure that he can trust me.

Now, sir, if I am permitted, I will say what this is. The trouble about this file, which is E554,886, H.Q. 869 L-1418, is that in the first place this man was suffering from a deviation of the spine, and he had other illnesses. It was written in a letter on June 1, and on July 8 I had this letter from the Quebec doctor—I translate it as best I can:

This man has been admitted on June 15 to the military hospital, Quebec, and went out four days after. We find light scoliosis of the spine, with shorter left inferior congenital member. However in his history we note that he has broken his left fist five years ago, and he said that that was not enough to change his category, which was A.

A man suffering from a deviation of the spine and being classified A!

I have another letter, from the department, dated August 17, to the same effect. He was attended by specialists, who admitted the same thing, according to a letter which I have received from the department, and which is to the same effect as the one of July 8 which I have read. It was dated October 2, and it admits that the man was suffering as I have stated and that he was kept in category A. Finally, thanks to his major, whose name I do not mention here, but the minister will see it when I transfer the files to him, a medical doctor at camp Valcartier, Dr. Demers, changed his category. This is a case which is clear. I complained of the physical inability of that man. The doctors concurred, yet they kept him in class