

Mr. RALSTON: I feel I am justified in giving the number of N.R.M.A. men in Canada, but I do not think I am in a position to give the percentage of home defence men and general service men in the operating formations.

Mr. ADAMSON: I asked a question concerning reasons for discharge or non-acceptance.

Mr. RALSTON: Rejections?

Mr. ADAMSON: Yes. It would be of value to have this information.

Mr. RALSTON: I believe I gave it roughly last night. The hon. member is referring to physical disabilities?

Mr. ADAMSON: Yes, that is correct. I have one further question, following that of the hon. member for Lake Centre. First, are Canadian citizens in the United States subject to call under the United States draft regulations, if they have not taken out their first papers? Secondly, if they opt to serve in the Canadian Army do they opt to serve on the home defence personnel, or must they opt to serve under the same conditions as they are called up for, under the United States service?

Mr. RALSTON: The hon. member has asked two questions involving a very lengthy agreement which has been entered into. I have no objection to giving the information as soon as possible. However, it is a matter of a lengthy agreement following negotiations between our officers and the Department of External Affairs and officials of the United States.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: I regret the answer by the minister regarding the proportions of men who were active and who were called up for service in the three Canadian divisions. The minister has said he does not feel as though he can give that information. Mr. Chairman, this is one of the most important matters with which we are faced, and one about which the people of this country want to know. We want to know whether the men who are actually going to defend Canada are, in fact, men who have been trained and who

have received the necessary training of active service men. I do not wish to press for information that could be valuable to the enemy, but I fail to understand in what way information as to the proportions of the three Canadian divisions as between active service men and men for service only in Canada could be regarded as being in that category. This is a matter of information which would be most helpful to the Canadian people in determining whether or not there are reinforcements in Canada available for the army overseas. I am going to ask the minister to give this information, but I will not press for it; if he takes the stand that it is not in the public interest to give it, that is the end of it. But I should like the minister to explain how such information can by any stretch of the imagination be detrimental to this country.

Mr. RALSTON: I say to my hon. friend that I consider it against the public interest to give it. That is all I can say about it. I think my hon. friend, upon consideration, will realize just why. It would be just as if when we were overseas in the last war we had given out information as to how many men in a battalion had been called up and how many had volunteered. I do not think anybody, least of all a member of parliament, would suggest that we give that information. On the matter of training I am perfectly willing to give the fullest information. That does not touch at all the question whether the men are volunteers or called up under the National Resources Mobilization Act. I have given the whole situation with regard to reinforcements, and I have given the number of the N.R.M.A. men in Canada.

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE FOR AIR

Hon. C. G. POWER (Minister of National Defence for Air): Mr. Chairman, I should like to table certain information which I think would be useful to the committee. It is a comparison of the 1943-44 cash requirements with the cash requirements for 1942-43 for all votes combined. I am laying on the table a certain number of copies for distribution to the members, and I request that this table be printed in *Hansard* to-morrow. It is as follows: