

Supply—National Defence

on those men, and the same applies to people who serve in regular militia units. Any time a man serving in a regular militia unit decides he does not want to serve any longer he turns in his uniform and the army generally has no further strings on him or control over him.

These people enlisted in the militia for a specific six weeks period and, just the same as any other regular militiamen who finish their period of service, when they finish that period of service the army has no means of asserting any control over them. This idea that there should be continuing control over them is just a fanciful myth of some sort which, under our system at the present time, cannot be implemented.

Mr. Hellyer: In the United Kingdom there are various classes of reserves, and the reserves there are subject to call-out under certain conditions. We had something similar in this country toward the end of the second world war, and following it. Surely it would not be unreasonable for men who are trained in civil survival to be listed as members of some class of reserve, or subject to call-up in case of national emergency. Perhaps the minister would explain why he is training men in civil survival, men who are going back to civilian life and who will not be members of any reserve or subject to any call.

Mr. Harkness: The hon. member has referred to the situation in the United Kingdom. I would point out that in the United Kingdom they have had conscription. They still have it, as a matter of fact, although they are not conscripting any more people, but a considerable number of the people they have already conscripted are being retained in the armed forces for a further six months period beyond the term when they should be released; and as a concomitant of their conscription program they have a system of people having to serve in the reserves after being trained a certain length of time, and being subject to call-up. We have not got a system like that in this country. Therefore the situation in the United Kingdom is not comparable from that point of view and we have no means of keeping any strings on these people or on any militiaman once he decides to leave the militia.

Mr. Peters: I think the minister will agree that the plan has been successful to some extent, particularly among classes of people like veterinarians, doctors and professional people like that who took these courses as part of their own organizations and who went back to their own areas full of enthusiasm for the program. I have talked to

[Mr. Harkness.]

some of them, and they lamented the fact that on a voluntary basis they cannot maintain liaison with the E.M.O. organization so that the training they got can be kept up to date. They undertook these six weeks courses at a sacrifice and very much at their own expense, because the amount of money they lost was certainly not compensated by the payments they got from the government.

I believe some organization should be provided for them. It does not have to be as military minded as the militia, but it could give them some leadership. As the minister is probably aware, there is no emergency measures organization in my area and many other areas of Canada. The heads of local organizations cannot be retained because, as the minister explained, the whole operation does not come under one department and surprisingly even gets into the hands of the Department of National Health and Welfare.

In my opinion it is not necessary to have any type of conscription, but there will be large numbers of trained people, particularly from municipal councils and the professional classes, who would wish to continue their contacts and would like to increase their understanding of the problem through correspondence, in order to keep up to date on the latest moves. The government could do something in this field in order to have close liaison with these people, and I believe it should make available some organization which would facilitate this type of further training. A six weeks course is very valuable as a beginning; it is very much of a beginner's course in the field of survival, but unless something further is done to follow up this training, and unless this organization is kept together and these people are made some use of, much of this training will have been wasted.

I agree with the minister that many of them would not want to go into the militia, where they would be under instruction to do this, but most of them have been impressed with the training they have received. The staff that was giving this training, particularly at Arnprior, were imbued with the desire to do something for somebody else in the field of survival. I think these people would volunteer quite readily to give up at least one or two nights a month to continue the organization, if we are going to build one.

I think frankly, and the minister can correct me if I am wrong, that this training has not led to our establishing an organization for national survival. This is not what this program has done. We are not taking advantage of it. I think it is only fair to the people who volunteered to take this course that the government should give some consideration to making available an organization which