

satisfaction with it. I would hesitate to say that it will be completely satisfactory; that perhaps would be carrying things a little too far.

Mr. FLEMING (*Okanagan-Revelstoke*): Can the minister give us any idea when he anticipates being in a position to advise the house of whatever planned amendments and changes may be introduced?

Mr. TELLET: As I stated a little earlier in answer to that same question, it is my hope that I might be able to do this before the end of this month, but certainly in the very near future. I would not want to make this as a firm commitment, because I might be forced to go into the month of November. However, my objective is to do this before the end of October.

Mr. FLEMING (*Okanagan-Revelstoke*): At that time we will then see what decisions have been reached with regard to the suggestions made by this committee at its last sittings.

Mr. TELLET: I think perhaps that is the proper way of putting it.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, I would like to thank the minister for coming here this morning and explaining these matters to us.

Mr. TELLET: Thank you very much. I have to go to another meeting at this time.

The CHAIRMAN: Item 1 will stand. There may be questions on this item.

Mr. MACRAE: May I ask the deputy minister whether the total number of employees in the Department of Veterans Affairs was larger or smaller at the end of the last fiscal year compared to previous fiscal years?

Mr. PAUL PELLETIER (*Deputy Minister, Department of Veterans Affairs*): The trend is going down. I will ask Mr. Mace to ascertain exactly what it is.

Mr. MACRAE: It probably will go down for a few years and as the second world war veterans require more services, then the trend will go up again.

Mr. PELLETIER: That is true, but only in certain areas. For example, the Veterans' Land Act is reducing and is expected to continue to reduce, while it is not inconceivable that welfare services may increase as the world war II load increases.

Mr. F. T. MACE (*Assistant Deputy Minister, Department of Veterans Affairs*): Do you wish the actual figures?

Mr. MACRAE: Yes.

Mr. MACE: From a purely establishment point of view, our estimates provided in 1963-64 for 14,329 positions and the estimates which are before you provide for 14,321. There is a very small change of eight. You should keep in mind that this is establishment, the number of positions we have on our establishment. Actually, at the end of June, 1964, which is the latest figure I have, we had only 13,103 employees. There are quite a number of vacant positions.

Mr. MCINTOSH: What is the reason for the unfilled vacancies? Is it because you cannot get the proper people to fill them?

Mr. MACE: Not necessarily. There is quite a turnover of staff particularly in the institutions; and while the figures I gave you first were for the ceilings, you are never up to your ceilings because somebody may leave for example in order to get married, and there will be a lapse of time before you get a replacement.

Mr. PELLETIER: In addition to that, in such classes as nurses, at certain institutions we have difficulty; in fact we cannot fill our establishment.

Mr. MACRAE: Thank you.

Mr. HERRIDGE: I wonder if the deputy minister could tell us what reductions have taken place in the veterans land administration staff, and describe