

Supply—National Defence

The Deputy Chairman: Order. If we are to proceed in an orderly manner I am afraid I will have to ask the hon. member to ask his question at another time. This item covers civil salaries and wages, on page 269.

Mr. McLure: This is on the same page and under the same heading.

The Deputy Chairman: Would the hon. member please resume his seat. I am trying to tell him that we are now discussing civil salaries and wages, and while that discussion is being carried on we cannot discuss naval barracks. Once this discussion is terminated we will move to professional and special services. The procedure agreed on this afternoon is that we are to study each detailed sum as it appears under the heading, first, of departmental administration including inspection services and civil defence. Under this heading we are now studying civil salaries and wages. Later the hon. member will have an opportunity to discuss barracks.

Mr. McLure: Under what heading was the manufacture of guns and ammunition discussed a few moments ago?

The Deputy Chairman: I was not in the chair when the discussion started but I read the unrevised copy of *Hansard* covering the half hour before six o'clock in order to ascertain how the discussion had commenced. I may tell the hon. member that it arose from a question asked by the hon. member for Nanaimo in connection with inspection services. At one point the hon. member asked if inspection services were carried on at the dominion arsenal at Longueuil, and since the Minister of Defence Production was here he gave an explanation. That is how it started, and that discussion was finalized a few moments ago. We are now on civil salaries and wages. Has the discussion terminated on that item?

Mr. McLure: If a mistake was made before six o'clock in not following the procedure that was laid down, why not make another mistake now? I am going to get the answers anyway.

The Deputy Chairman: I would be glad to accommodate the hon. member, but even if one mistake was made I do not intend to be a party to another.

Mr. Noseworthy: I notice that altogether there is something over \$50 million for civil salaries and wages scattered through these national defence estimates. Would it be possible for the minister to provide us with a mimeographed sheet of some kind that would give us the sort of break-down he gave me for the item of \$3,489,842? I would like to know, for instance, the scale of those

salaries, what are some of the higher salaries and what are some of the lower ones. Are these people civil servants, permanent or temporary, or are they not in the civil service?

Mr. Claxton: The department employs civilians in a number of different categories; first, permanent civil servants; second, temporary civil servants, in exactly the same way as every other department of the government. They get corresponding salaries, and they received the increase which was made applicable on December 1, 1950. Then the department employs a very considerable number of prevailing rate employees, largely in the dockyards at Halifax and Esquimalt, and also in the shops of RCEME and the ordnance corps. In connection with those employees the practice is to pay the rate decided by the Department of Labour to be the rate prevailing in that locality for equivalent work. We observe that rule very closely. In consequence we pay the civilians working in the department, who are not civil servants but who are prevailing rate employees, the rates paid for equivalent work in the locality, as determined by the Department of Labour.

Mr. Noseworthy: Are some of those salaried employees who are not civil servants being paid at prevailing salaries?

Mr. Claxton: No. There are two categories. If a man is on salary then he is a temporary or permanent civil servant. If he is not on salary he is a prevailing rate employee, paid at the rate prevailing in the community.

Mr. Green: Has the department been making any study of the question of national registration? I ask that question because in the report of the national advisory council on manpower there was a recommendation that various departments, I think including the Department of National Defence, should make an immediate and comprehensive study of all aspects of the national registration question.

The Deputy Chairman: Order. Perhaps the hon. member did not hear me a moment ago when I said we were now discussing civil salaries and wages. It may be that the question he is bringing up pertains to this matter, but it would help the committee very much if he would come to his question, because I do not see how he can discuss that matter at this point.

Mr. Green: A survey of that kind would be undertaken by the administrative staff at national defence headquarters, and I submit I am quite in order in asking the question under this item. This item covers, for