

*Canadian Forces Act*

referring to morale. It is very necessary for reserve force units to feel that they are treated on exactly the same basis across Canada, and that the same regulations apply to all.

**Mr. Churchill:** May I say a few words in support of what has been said with respect to auxiliary services in Korea, so as to impress upon the minister the importance of this particular feature of service in the field. As has been pointed out, I do not think it matters what other countries are doing or are not doing. Canada could well afford to set an example in the employment of auxiliary services even if other countries are not using this type of service. I do not think it matters about the terrain or the difficult living conditions in deciding whether auxiliary services should be supplied. In fact, I think the more difficult conditions are the greater the need for auxiliary services.

I am not suggesting that large recreational centres should be set up in a country like Korea. What I am thinking about is auxiliary services at the unit level. That is where I think the emphasis should be placed until such time as it is feasible to provide more adequate recreational services elsewhere.

I am not too sure that the present arrangement of welfare officers and N.C.O.'s is as good as auxiliary services provided by the Legion, the Y.M.C.A., the Salvation Army or some such organization. It has been suggested that it might work at the brigade level, but the experience has been that the welfare officer is not necessarily a specialist in that type of work. He may be dispatched to other duties and replaced by someone else, whereas the auxiliary service man is a specially selected man who has had considerable experience in Canada dealing with young men. My experience in the war was that these men in the auxiliary services were ready to undertake any type of service with a complete disregard of danger.

While the present arrangement of welfare officers and N.C.O.'s may be temporarily satisfactory, I would not want to have it a permanent arrangement. The reasons are fairly obvious to those who have seen service. There is a barrier between the man in the ranks and the officer and the N.C.O. You cannot maintain discipline in a unit and reduce that to a nonentity. On the other hand, your auxiliary service man from the Y.M.C.A., Salvation Army or some similar organization is able to work with no barrier between him and the man. He moves with freedom among the private soldiers, the N.C.O.'s and the

officers. We must not forget that the private soldier outnumbers all the rest by a considerable majority.

I suggest that the minister give serious consideration to utilizing these auxiliary service people in Korea in accordance with the offers that have been made already. I think good results would flow. There is no question that the morale of our men is of the greatest importance. When a man is serving in the field it takes only a small amount of auxiliary services to build up his morale. Anyone who has served in the field has seen that happen quite frequently.

There is another important aspect to this matter. If these organizations are permitted to send experienced and trained personnel overseas they will be apt to mobilize public opinion at home, which will be all to the good. At times the men in Korea must feel that they are forgotten. It is not that anybody wishes to forget them; it is a natural thing unless attention is drawn to what is going on. An organization sending auxiliary service personnel overseas would likely keep the public at home informed with regard to the welfare of the troops. I think the general public would feel happier and more at ease if our young men were being looked after by these highly trained welfare people which these organizations to which I have referred can supply.

Just a final word with regard to education. I imagine the minister will have something to say along this line. There is a field for educational services with the troops. Not with troops right in the front line, as they have not the time; but with those back in hospital or at base there is obviously a certain amount of spare time available. There are always a number of young men who wish to avail themselves of this opportunity to advance, and educational services should be provided. Perhaps they are being provided at the present time.

I suggest that every endeavour should be made to provide these services to our serving men. Many of them will be appreciative of such an opportunity and I think it should be made available to them. It must be remembered always that behind the man carrying the rifle in the front line are 7, 8 or 10 men serving elsewhere. Those men are likely to have some spare time available and could take advantage of educational services.

**Mr. Jones:** I should like to make one suggestion although I do not know whether it will be acceptable. Like all hon. members, I have found great difficulty in assisting returned men, those of the first war especially, in establishing claims. In many cases records were lost and the men never had records