

branches of the service. My information while travelling, and from information received, is that there is considerable discrimination as between certain branches of the service, and as between branches of the service east and west.

There is another matter I should like to bring to the attention of the minister. When men of the air force are being transported from one point to another west of Toronto they are supplied with meal tickets and a berth. But east of Toronto they are not supplied with meals or a berth. When men in the army travel anywhere in Canada they have to sit in a second-class car, are provided only with a sandwich and must buy a bottle of coca-cola or something else to wash it down. This applies also to ratings in the navy. Berths are not provided in either case. There is definite discrimination between the men in the air force and the men in the army and the navy, and further discrimination in the air force as between travel west of Toronto and travel east of Toronto. I have a specific complaint to make to the Minister of National Defence for Air, and I shall not bother the Minister of National Defence with it at this time. This matter should receive thorough examination.

Yesterday I brought up the question of free transportation for the men in the army on their furlough after six months service and embarkation leave. If a man is in a camp in central Canada and receives embarkation leave, as a general rule, it will cost him a good deal to go home. Just recently I was on a train going to Montreal, and I met a group of boys who were en route from Petawawa camp to Sydney, Nova Scotia, on their embarkation leave.

Mr. RALSTON: Artillery men?

Mr. GILLIS: Yes. When their leaves came through they had no money, and their chums in the camp took up a collection to buy their tickets. They had a placard nailed to the end of their seat, "Kindly help five starving soldiers."

Mr. RALSTON: This was not a special train.

Mr. GILLIS: No. They were depending upon other people in order to get their meals on the way down. That is not good enough for a man who has enlisted voluntarily and who must take his training at whatever point is decided on by the military authorities. When embarkation leave comes through a man should not have to travel under such circumstances in order to see his family, possibly for the last time. Free transportation

should have been provided a long time ago. Most of these boys in the service are assigning the greater part of their pay, and the few dollars they have left is hardly enough to buy the shaving materials and other little things they need.

I ask the minister to check up on this discrimination which seems to exist in the present regulations. As I say, there is even discrimination in the air force itself. When a boy in western Canada enlists and is assigned to the manning pool at Toronto, he is given his meals and a berth, but the boy from Halifax does not receive this. I know of one case where some boys had to sit up all the way from Halifax to Montreal without any meals, and they could not even get seats from Montreal to Toronto; they had to stand.

Mr. GRAYDON: The minister will recall that almost from the beginning of the war a number of members of this party have been insisting upon free transportation being provided for members of the armed forces. The matter raised by the hon. member for Cape Breton South deserves the serious attention of the Minister of National Defence and the other two defence ministers. Many of these men are undergoing training thousands of miles away from their homes. This was not the situation in the last war. I know that practically every member of this committee will be able to recall boys from his constituency who are located almost at the other end of Canada, and have been there for some time.

When their furloughs come through, in most instances they find that they have not been able to save sufficient money to pay for their transportation. There are many things that must be paid for out of their limited pay. I for one make no apology for emphasizing the need of free transportation for the men in our armed forces. I think the minister should make an immediate decision, and I hope it will be favourable, in connection with providing free transportation at least on these two occasions, namely the furlough and the embarkation leave.

Perhaps I might go a little farther than the hon. member for Cape Breton South. This whole matter of furlough and embarkation leave is linked up with the man's service. It cannot be said that a man has an option with respect to these two matters. There may be an option so far as week-end leaves are concerned, but that is not so in connection with furloughs and embarkation leaves. I ask the minister to consider this in a different light than he has on previous occasions when war appropriation bills were before the com-