

Supply—National Defence

the pay back to the unit, as we used to do in the old days between wars, the men now need that money. It is a fortunate thing the government has a reserve army of this type. There is not enough administrative time to pay the handful of people who must administer the regiment. It is not like active service during the war where you can have the adjutant publish an order, and a short time later find the troops on the parade square. Every parade, every special exercise, means a terrific amount of work for those administering the regiments and sub-units. There seems to be a feeling among some that reserve army units can administer themselves within the ten days which is allowed. It cannot be done. I feel that the department should recognize the situation and deal with it accordingly on an administrative basis rather than on a training basis. It should not be granted arbitrarily, but as a matter of need.

At this time, Mr. Chairman, I want to pay tribute to the active force officers, areas, and commands of the army, for the co-operation which they have given the reserve units during the last several years. Without their co-operation, none of the units could have functioned. We have found that the active force officers will spend any amount of time and energy in assisting units with their problems, and in helping them to avoid pitfalls. This is so different from what we knew in the old N.P.A.M. days that I wanted to put it on the record.

Mr. Claxton: Mr. Chairman, I am sure the committee would be glad to learn that the 8th Princess Louise's (N.B.) Hussars commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel E. W. George, who happens to be the member for Westmorland, achieved its quota on the day business opened, Monday last.

The Chairman: Shall the item carry?

Some hon. Members: Carried.

Mr. Drew: Mr. Chairman, the way that suggestion is made that this item carry at this stage is to me, in itself, one of the most alarming things connected with this debate. This one item covers a total of \$1,412 million, and this is the item that, it appears to be suggested, members might pass without more information than they have at this time.

Mr. Knowles: It is more than all the rest of the estimates in the book put together.

Mr. Drew: Yes, more than all the rest of the estimates combined. May I point out that we are referred to what are mistakenly called the details at the back of the book. These details, so-called, commence at page 269. Let us see just how useful these details are, from the point of view of any hon. member

[Mr. George.]

who is assuming his responsibility here now of passing on hundreds of millions of dollars and placing that burden upon the Canadian taxpayer. Do not let anyone raise the suggestion that anyone is questioning the necessity for effective national defence. The more necessary that becomes, however, the more necessary it is that every member in this house take some steps to make sure that every dollar spent is being spent to the best effect, and that we are going to get results from this money; that we are not going to have the same failures that have occurred year after year in the past.

Let us look at these so-called details on page 270. Under the group of naval estimates, we find one single estimate described under the heading of details, "materials and supplies, \$60,189,708". Now, that may be what the Minister of Finance is laughing at so loudly, but the taxpayers of Canada are not laughing so readily at this item. These things do require some consideration, and the flip-pant manner in which the Minister of Finance regards an item of that kind is a test—

Mr. Abbott: On a question of privilege, Mr. Chairman, perhaps I should apologize to the hon. member, but I did not happen to be listening to him. I was speaking to my parliamentary assistant about something else.

Mr. Drew: Mr. Chairman, the minister was laughing and chuckling, and it is interesting to note that he does not regard this discussion as sufficiently important, although he is the minister responsible for raising hundreds of millions of dollars for these items, which are not even given in sufficient detail for anyone to guess what they really are—

Mr. Abbott: It is only now that I thought perhaps I could stop listening for a few minutes.

Mr. Drew: It merely indicates the smart-aleck attitude of the Minister of Finance. First of all, he said he was not listening but was laughing as a result of a conversation with his parliamentary assistant, and now he says he is laughing because of the statements that are being made on the floor. It is a measure of the responsibility being assumed by this government in regard to these huge expenditures at this time.

Mr. Goode: On a question of privilege, Mr. Chairman, may I point out—

Mr. Drew: Mr. Chairman, I am not aware that any question has been raised.

The Chairman: Any member can raise a point of order or a question of privilege.

Mr. Drew: I heard no remark about a question of privilege; apparently it was a suggestion that was going to be made.