

WITNESS CLAIMS FEES WERE PAID IN EXAMINATION

Testimony Given Before
Court-Martial Case
in Quebec

PRIVATE ON TRIAL

Quebec, Dec. 1.—Six witnesses testified before a general court-martial here yesterday that they had given sums ranging from \$5 to \$800 to Pte. Leopold Houde, of Quebec, standing trial on charges of receiving money from several persons in connection with their army medical examinations and of distributing the money among other medical personnel.

J. Adelard Aube, Quebec tobacco dealer, who took the witness stand in the morning, but whose testimony was withheld pending investigation whether it might later be used against the witness, later told how he gave Houde \$800 "through fear that the classification given my son by our family doctor might be reversed."

Aube's son, Joseph, 37, testified that "Houde, knowing that I was ill, came to my father's place and suggested that I go to a doctor. There was no question of money at the time. It was after I was classified by my family doctor that the money was paid."

Jean Ferrier, of Deschaillons, testified he called at the recruiting bureau around the end of September and was asked by Houde if he would like his discharge, as "I am not physically built for a soldier." He said that Houde told him that "it will cost you something. I gave him \$35 or \$45 when I got my discharge."

Gave \$100 Tip

Andre Lapointe, Laurier Station taxi driver, said that after being classified in "E" medical category he had given a "tip" to Houde,

Crown Prosecutor Lieut.-Col. Laval Fortier asked how much the "tip" amounted to, and Lapointe said that he had given Houde \$100, but that he had not been asked for any money.

Gerard Simard, Roland Trudel and Antoine Beaudet, all of Quebec, told of giving Houde \$5, \$25 and \$20, respectively. Simard, who said that he was not asked for anything, said that he had given Houde \$5 for the trouble he went to to get a discharge for a man he identified as Charles Raymond.

Trudel told how he went to the recruiting office and met Houde, who had previously told him to get a doctor's certificate and then submit to an army medical examination in order to get a discharge. Beaudet testified that the accused had said that he might be able to help him and that after being classed "E" he gave Houde \$20.

Roland Blouin, of Matane, said that after receiving his call-up notice he went to the recruiting office and met Houde, who told him: "If you're sick, it can be fixed."

Lieutenant-Colonel Jules Mercier, district medical officer, said that he had interviewed the accused October 17 to ask him whether he had heard of anything out of the ordinary going on. He told of bringing the accused back for questioning a second and third time and of warning him that he did not have to talk as anything he might say may be used against him.

"When I warned Houde," Colonel Mercier said, "he was neither under arrest nor under guard. I neither promised him anything nor threatened him. When he lost his sergeant stripes he made a verbal declaration and signed a statement."

Colonel Fortier, Major Louis Lacasse, officer commanding the 5th company, and Staff Sergeant Joseph Desrosiers, of the Royal Canadian Mounted police, corroborated Colonel Mercier's testimony. Sergeant-Major J. Drolet also took the stand but said that he did not remember much of what went on at the time as he was busy typing out the written declaration, later signed by the accused.

Houde, who has already pleaded not guilty to the charges he faces, is the third of five medical officers and four other men to face the court, set up to investigate certain irregularities relating to the medical examinations of prospective army recruits.

149
WAR
EUROPEAN
1939
CANADA
CONSCRIPTION
MANPOWER
QUEBEC
MEDICAL
CONSPIRACY