

feel we are a provincial responsibility because we are veterans' widows—a preferred group of women—and I still suggest to the women that we should have free hospitalization. I will give you an illustration which occurred in my province. Perhaps Mrs. Caunt could take a note and give an illustration from her province. If a woman goes to a hospital in my province—through the social service department—she is asked immediately: “Do you work? No. Any income? Yes, \$50 a month. Fifty cents for your card. You can't pay it? Can you pay a quarter? Well, I will try.” Some say no, no, I cannot pay a quarter so they go through free, but the one who tries to pay that quarter pays it so they go through the clinic and probably are put into hospital.

I showed to the Minister of Pensions and National Health the hospital bill of a widow for \$375 and on that bill which was thoroughly itemized a charge of 25 cents was made for one aspirin and a charge of 15 cents was made for one orange. I do not have that bill with me now because I have already shown it to the minister.

In our province, as I presume is the case in other provinces, if the widow has any relations at all, including grandchildren, who are working the authorities will make them pay the hospital bill. That is what is causing much of the disruption in the homes where the mothers are being put out of their own family homes because the families figure that if she becomes sick and is taken to the hospital they will be responsible for the bill. I have said that in my province they will dig your great-grandfather out of the grave to make him pay the hospital bill and I think my suggestion for this form of card for the veterans' widows would save a great deal of trouble. I think the government could do that. The government gives grants to hospitals and for hospitalization and all provincial governments and municipalities do.

It is not very long ago that I received a call at 3 o'clock in the morning from one of my widows who was sick. I had to call the police and have her taken to the hospital in a taxi. She got into the hospital without trouble because she had no other source of income but if she had had any relations they would definitely have had to pay her bill. I think this could be done by the governments because, as I mentioned, the governments give substantial amounts of money to the hospitals and I think that the widows should be taken care of in that way. I want to leave this in your minds, gentlemen, and I am interested in seeing what can be done about it. It is very embarrassing for women to have to go to the clinic and to have to answer the questions they are asked especially when they are living as they are. When you go to a clinic with some money you can be a little saucy but when you live in poor circumstances your courage grows weaker and weaker when you appear before the people, many of whom are not very nice people. I will not dwell on it because if I do I will be feeling sorry for myself.

I trust this resolution meets with your approval. The government has always said they could not give free hospitalization to us because they would have to give it to the widows who are on full pension. If the government cannot see fit to do this I hope they will at least give us enough money so we can pay our own hospital bills even if we must continue to go to the clinic. I would not mind being a full pensioned widow getting \$100 and being able to go out and earn \$100 a day without any questions and investigators bothering me and there are many of our women—I would say the majority of the women who are with me today—who would like to find themselves in this position. I am not criticizing the pension commission; I am not criticizing anybody. In 1928 through a lack of knowledge of how to operate pension in the country many of our widows did not receive full pension. We were told in more cases than one that it was the fault of the men. They would not go to the department or to the government to see what the matter was until 1928 when the government