

*Supply—Veterans Affairs*

**Mr. Green:** The wife gets more as well.

**Mr. Wright:** That does not seem fair. I submit that the department should provide an additional grant of at least \$85 to take care of emergency cases.

**Mr. Abbott:** This is in addition to half a million provided before.

**Mr. Wright:** In addition to that.

**Mr. Abbott:** There is \$60,000 of an underestimate in connection with an item of \$20 million.

**Mr. Wright:** That simply proves my point. The emergency exists and it must be met by these additional votes. If the war veterans allowance was sufficient and if complete medical services were provided these emergency grants would not be necessary. I am quite sure the minister will agree that about 75 per cent of these cases are due to sickness, either of a veteran or of members of his family. I think it is time that we gave complete medical services to those who are receiving war veterans allowances. The only way this matter can be dealt with effectively is by setting up a committee where these things can be discussed and given fair consideration.

**Mr. Quelch:** Mr. Chairman, I would have liked to speak at some length on this item but in view of the fact it is only a few minutes to six o'clock I rise simply to support what has been said by the two previous speakers. I think the Minister of Veterans Affairs should explain why the government has refused to set up a committee on war veterans affairs. In the past it has been customary to set up such a committee at the start of each new parliament. I presume the government must have some special reason for refusing to set up a committee, but the fact is that hon. members are receiving resolutions from the Legion and other organizations asking for amendments to the War Veterans' Allowance Act and these matters can be discussed effectively only in a committee.

**Mr. Herridge:** Mr. Chairman, I am going to take only a minute or two to indicate my support of the opinions expressed by the previous speakers. The proposal by the Canadian Legion that a parliamentary committee on veterans affairs be appointed should receive further consideration by the minister. I am sure the minister and all hon. members will admit that throughout the years the Canadian Legion has made constructive and sound proposals to the government and to hon. members of this house, as a result of which we have the present War Veterans'

[Mr. Wright.]

Allowance Act, the amendments to the Pension Act, to the Veterans' Land Act and to the rehabilitation act.

I think the request of the Canadian Legion that the rate for single men should be increased to \$50 and for married men to \$85 is modest. While the special assistance has been of great help to a large number of veterans, I think hon. members will agree that a satisfactory solution will not be reached until the basic rate is increased. I could go on at some length and I shall have more to say on veterans affairs when the main estimates are under consideration, but in conclusion I urge the minister to reconsider the proposals of the Canadian Legion, particularly those affecting war veterans allowances.

**Mr. Abbott:** May I just interject to say that perhaps Your Honour will not watch the clock too closely, particularly as there is another item of \$1,425,000 in connection with the Veterans' Land Act. This is one of the most urgent items in the bill as we have had to stop making these payments. I have two bills to put through and I would hope that perhaps you would not watch the clock too closely.

**Mr. Gregg:** I am sure that none of the hon. gentlemen who have spoken expect me to deal with these questions in full this afternoon. I shall be prepared to do so on my main estimates. However, to answer the question asked by the hon. member for Vancouver-Quadra, first as to the setting up of a committee and second, as to increasing the basic rate, I would say that I have considered the matter fully and up to the present time I am not prepared to recommend an increase in the basic rate or the setting up of a committee at this session.

Item agreed to.

Resolutions reported, read the second time and concurred in.

**BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**

**Hon. Douglas Abbott (Minister of Finance):** Perhaps I should formally move:

That the house be not adjourned at six o'clock p.m. this day.

Motion agreed to.

**WAYS AND MEANS**

**Hon. Douglas Abbott (Minister of Finance)** moved that the house go into committee of ways and means.

Motion agreed to, and the house went into committee, Mr. Dion in the chair.