

fifths during his service in the armed forces on a military operations theatre. The reports from the medical examination which he underwent last February indicate that the total disability caused by this ailment is estimated at 10 per cent while that which makes him eligible for a pension on the basis of a two fifths aggravation is 4 per cent. Therefore, Mr. Smith is not eligible for monthly pension payments, but under the act he has been granted compensation in the amount of—

I also have here a letter from the wife of a veteran who says that her husband has to stay in hospital twice a year. In 1964, his invalidity had been estimated at 25 per cent, and his pension was based on 5 per cent of that 25 per cent, which in fact entitles him to \$21.90 a month. I do not find that exorbitant. Frankly, to grant 3.5 per cent of \$21.90 is almost to make a laughing stock of the veterans.

Now, doctors do not all agree on diagnoses. This pensioner has pulmonary problems, but who knows when, the day or the hour, his problems started? In a letter his wife wrote me dated May 9, she states that their family doctor recommends that her husband take a one-year rest. But as he has a family, and obligations, he cannot afford to take it. He is 51 years old.

Whatever their age, the veterans should be looked after because, in my view, they probably deserve more than the afflicted in the concentration camps of the communist countries.

As His Excellency the Governor General stated in the Speech from the Throne, if our country is rich, there is no reason to force to work the veterans who are tired, worn out and sick, who have killed themselves with work. All the more so as there are enough healthy people looking for work to replace those who deserve a rest.

Mr. Speaker, considering this evidence and considering these victims, I am inclined to believe that certain doctors employed by the Canadian Pensions Commission have become dishonest. We are under the impression that these people must justify their position by doing everything they can to harm those who are discharged on account of illness or disability as a result of years devoted to the defence of our country and even of other countries.

In order to rate a serviceman below 5 per cent, Mr. Speaker, as we have seen in the letter signed by the minister, they go so far as to speak of 2/5 of 10 per cent.

When it comes to experience, we all know that the Canadian government, through the Canadian Armed Forces, leaves no stone unturned. They test aircraft, aircraft carriers, hydrofoils. We send our soldiers for a while in the Baffin Island area to find out how people can live there. Savings are never important; experiences are what matters. In my opinion it is therefore not normal that these loads fall on veterans who always have to tighten their belt.

Since there are a great many such cases I take the liberty of asking the minister to do his utmost and order an investigation into that matter. If some Canadian Pension Commission officers are not acting or working properly, they should be replaced as soon as possible.

Mr. Speaker, if some legislation provides for the protection of animals there should be one providing for the security of human beings, especially veterans and their families.

*Pension Act and Other Acts*

• (1650)

[English]

**PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION**

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel):** Order, please. Before recognizing the next hon. member it is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 40, to inform the House that the questions to be raised at the time of adjournment are as follows: the hon. member for St. John's West (Mr. Carter)—Fisheries—Atlantic Salmon—Suggested boycott of Danish goods; the hon. member for Regina East (Mr. Burton)—Regional Economic Expansion—Position of discussions with provinces on programs; the hon. member for Vegreville (Mr. Mazankowski)—Industry—Versatile Manufacturing Limited—Proposed expansion in United States rather than Canada—Discussions with company officials.

**GOVERNMENT ORDERS**

**PENSION ACT, WAR VETERANS ALLOWANCE ACT AND OTHER ACTS**

AMENDMENT TO PROVIDE FOR ANNUAL ADJUSTMENT OF PENSIONS AND ALLOWANCES

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Laing that Bill C-208, to amend the Pension Act, the War Veterans Allowance Act, the Civilian War Pensions and Allowance Act, the Children of War Dead (Education Assistance) Act and the Department of Veterans Affairs Act, to provide for the annual adjustment of pensions and allowances payable thereunder, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs.

**Mr. Laing:** Mr. Speaker, in replying to some questions—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel):** Order, please. May I bring to the minister's attention that another hon. member rose at the same time as he rose. Knowing that if the minister speaks at this time he will close debate, I think the Chair ought to recognize the other hon. member who rose. The hon. member for Algoma.

**Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma):** Mr. Speaker, I believe some discussions are going on with a view to continuing debate on this bill through the private members' hour. I do not know whether the House leaders want to comment at this time or whether we shall hear comments on this subject at five o'clock. At any rate, I believe discussions to that effect are going on; perhaps we shall know at five o'clock what is to happen.

May I comment briefly on the bill before the House this afternoon, Bill C-208, which makes provision for a cost of living escalator clause to apply to the War Veterans Allowance Act, the Pension Act, the Civilian War Pensions and Allowance Act and the Children of War Dead (Education Assistance) Act. In one way it is unfortunate,