

being maintained by services personnel or their widows who were not legally adopted, although they have been maintained for years. In many cases the reason they were not legally adopted is that the people who were maintaining the children could not afford to go through the necessary court procedure in order to have them adopted. It is not a simple matter at all. You have to hire a lawyer, and your case has to be prepared, and it will cost anywhere from \$50 to \$100 to do that. There are many children being deprived of the benefits of all these Acts, pensions and so forth, because the interpretation of "legally adopted" and what it entails deprives them of receiving consideration. I know it has been brought to their attention a good many times, but I wonder if the commission have given any consideration to the broadening of the latitude where financial circumstances have prevented the adoption of children who certainly would have been adopted had it not been for the necessity of going through all the legal machinery. I wonder if any consideration has ever been given to changing that, or broadening it, or giving administrative latitude to the commission?

Mr. BURNS: Mr. Chairman, I have just been informed that we have not had any cases come up where this has occasioned any difficulty during the recent past. Perhaps Mr. Black could expand on that.

Mr. BLACK (Superintendent of Veterans Insurance): Mr. Chairman, we have certain cases in which children are described as "adopted", and we have attempted to find out whether they are legally adopted, and quite often we are not able to gain that assurance. It would be rather difficult administratively to settle claims if a child were described on our beneficiary form as an adopted child, where the degree of adoption would be very indefinite. It may be difficult to decide whether a child who may not have been legally adopted should have preference over the natural children of the insured. It may create an embarrassing circumstance unless we had some documentary evidence.

Mr. GILLIS: The trouble now is that the documentary evidence necessary means going through the legal procedure. There are many who have not been able to afford that, and have been maintaining the children for years. You have got a large investigating staff, and I think that if an investigator went in and made an examination of the home, and the length of time the child has been maintained, and so forth, that some consideration should be given, on the basis of his recommendation, for the purpose of these Acts. That would be simple enough, but it is, of course, our legislation provincially, because they also take this attitude. I think the time has come when someone should look into the matter and see whether or not some of the legal business could be removed.

Mr. BROOKS: Mr. Chairman, in the past there has been considerable difficulty and expense in connection with the legal side, but I know in my own province, and I think it is general in all provinces in Canada, that the adoption of children has been, if I may use the term more or less streamlined, and under the Children's Aid Society in most provinces there is a fixed rate now for the adoption of children, and the lawyers have agreed to do the legal work for \$25. That is about the cost in most of the provinces today.

Mr. GILLIS: Is it in Nova Scotia?

Mr. BROOKS: It used to be some \$50 to \$100, but I think you will find under the Children's Aid Society it has been greatly reduced. It has been reduced in my province, and I think the societies across Canada have more or less adopted it.

The CHAIRMAN: Perhaps Mr. Gunn could give us some information?

Mr. GUNN: I think Mr. Brooks has described the situation properly. It is undoubtedly true that through all Canada an effort has been made by the provincial authorities to make it possible for legal adoption to take place with the