

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Green, I said that we will not meet tomorrow unless the committee is agreeable to meeting. All I am suggesting is that this report of the agenda committee be approved because it confirms our meeting here today.

Hon. MEMBERS: Agreed.

The CHAIRMAN: It is carried?

Hon. MEMBERS: Agreed.

The CHAIRMAN: We now have Bill 278 referred to this committee, and the Canadian Legion have asked to make a supplementary submission with regard to it. Mr. T. D. Anderson, general secretary, Dominion Command, Canadian Legion, B.E.S.L. is here to present the brief. I will ask Mr. Anderson to make the submission.

Mr. T. D. Anderson, Dominion Secretary, Canadian Legion, B.E.S.L., called.

The WITNESS: I would like first of all to express our thanks and appreciation for the opportunity of again appearing before you with this supplementary brief. Without further delay I will proceed to read it. You will note that the brief is rather short.

RE: UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE—ARMED FORCES

Recommendation

That the Department of National Defence make provision for members of the armed forces to contribute to unemployment insurance so that they may benefit from the Unemployment Insurance Act in the same manner as do industrial employees.

Comment

When the Veterans Benefit Act is amended in accordance with Section 2 of Bill 278, members of the armed forces who enlist after July 1st, 1955, will not be eligible to draw unemployment insurance after discharge.

There will unquestionably be a number who will be discharged for medical and other reasons from time to time, many of whom will be employable and not in receipt of either superannuation or a disability pension. Ex-service men and women in this category particularly will stand to benefit by any plan which will make it possible for them to draw unemployment insurance benefits.

In addition there will be a number who will leave insurable employment to enlist, and in most cases they will lose all entitlement to benefits during their term of service. This consideration may well be an important factor when the individual is deciding whether or not to enlist.

On the basis suggested the service man and the department would contribute equally, while the government would contribute one-fifth of the combined contribution of both.

The WITNESS: That, Mr. Chairman, is the submission, but before I take my seat I would like to take this opportunity to express thanks and appreciation to yourself and the members of this committee for the good work you have done in the interests of veterans over the years. I know I can do so on behalf of all members of the Canadian Legion. Many of the members who are here today have served on this committee for a good many years, and we want you to know that we deeply appreciate the sympathetic, kindly and sincere interest which you have at all times shown in the welfare of Canadian veterans and their dependents.

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any questions which any member of the committee would like to ask of Mr. Anderson?