

In the meantime, I know that members of the committee who were members of the government party in turn did their bit to try to persuade the government that certain improvements were necessary before the bill left the committee.

I think perhaps something along that line might be done within the week or so that we have; and as far as I am concerned, I am prepared, for an interval at least, to carry on and not waste time on this particular item. But I do reserve my right to revive discussion of this very important matter prior to our clearing the bill through committee.

Time is of the essence. I think we are quite satisfied that the minister is very earnestly concerned about this particular problem. Perhaps, from the point of view of procedure, we might just agree upon a moratorium, and discuss this particular point after perhaps a week.

An hon. MEMBER: I want to support Mr. Benidickson's approach.

Mr. BENIDICKSON: The Minister has been quite frank with us. So let us get on with the bill and reserve our right to discuss the matter of a recommendation in the committee in due course.

The CHAIRMAN: I know Mr. Winkler has had his hand up for some time. If everybody else is going to say something, then he should have his chance at this time as well.

Mr. WINKLER: Mr. Chairman, I would prefer it if we might now hear from Mr. Anderson.

The CHAIRMAN: I think that is the proper thing to do. I think we should now get our meeting off to a proper start.

We have with us Mr. Anderson, the chairman of the pension commission, and we want to get his statement, because as things come along there may be more light.

Mr. LENNARD: Mr. Chairman, I do not think the parliamentary secretary should have any place on this committee. He should be seated beside you, representing the minister.

The CHAIRMAN: Then we will invite him up to the front and give him a place of honour.

Mr. LENNARD: I mean that he should not be on the committee as a member, but rather as a representative of the minister at these meetings.

Mr. JONES: I think the procedure in the past was for the parliamentary secretary to the minister to be a member of the committee. I think Mr. Dinsdale was a member of the committee.

Mr. BENIDICKSON: He also was chairman for a while. But I see that we have with us a former member, Mr. Mutch; and I remember seeing him at most of our meetings in the past.

The CHAIRMAN: We have with us this morning certain officials from the department whom I want to introduce. They are not here particularly to take part in proceedings, but are here merely as observers. However, if anything should come up, or some question arise, I think they would be willing to answer it.

We have with us Col. Lalonde who, as all the members know, is the deputy minister of the department. We also have Mr. Black, the secretary of the department, and Mr. Cromb, the chief of the War Veterans Allowance Board.

I think we should welcome Mr. Cromb, maybe for the first time in his official position.

These gentlemen are all from the department. And then we have with us from the pension commission those who are particularly concerned with the bill, in the person of Mr. Anderson, the chairman, Mr. Mutch, the deputy chair-