

The WITNESS: There will be a special committee set up but they will be the persons now working in the department. There will be no additional staff engaged.

Hon. Mr. LAPOINTE: The committee will be found amongst the members of the district staff.

Mr. QUELCH: Mr. Chairman, coming back to the question of pensioners in the country who are unemployable due to the fact there is no type of work they can do available in the area—suppose that certain construction work comes in the district, for instance gravelling roads. The pensioner is perhaps given the job of timekeeper. He can do that from sitting in a car and he earns say \$150 a month. The job ends at the end of a month, we will assume. I suppose he would not get the \$40 for that month but would he receive the \$40 a month for the balance of the year or would the \$150 be deducted from the \$450? Just what would be the situation? There are bound to be dozens and dozens of such cases.

The CHAIRMAN: The deputy has said that it is proposed to exempt casual earnings.

Mr. QUELCH: When do earnings become casual? We see that very question under war veterans allowance.

The CHAIRMAN: Can you add anything to what you said before, General Burns?

Mr. QUELCH: I wish you would define casual earnings because I have run into that several times under war veterans allowance.

The CHAIRMAN: You have the support of some veterans organizations, and the War Veterans Allowance Board, who would like a definition of casual earnings, but the effect of a definition is to restrict, and I do not want to get into a discussion such as you and I and others had two years ago on this same question of casual earnings. I think it is fair to suggest that the removal of a ceiling on casual earnings has worked to the great advantage of most recipients of war veterans allowance. You remember we asked for the yardstick which they were using, I think, in our last committee, and it was entered in the records there, that we found out it is possible for a man to earn, in one case I know of, \$700. He made it in a day, and it was ignored; it was the first money he made in years.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: It was made in a day? He must have been a parliamentary assistant.

The CHAIRMAN: He was 70 years of age, a former real estate man on whom someone called asking him to sell his house. There was some discussion over it, he sold it for cash, and the commission in that case was in the neighbourhood of \$700, and I know in that particular case it was treated as casual earnings; if there had been a limit it could not have been done. Generally if you define, or attempt to define, then you put a ceiling on by that very definition, and I think some of you would agree, when you put a ceiling on it is difficult to get beyond that no matter what the circumstances are. I would suggest to the committee that we proceed with some care in pressuring for a ceiling on casual earnings. The local people have been pretty successful in estimating whether the money received is a windfall or not. If you get \$15 a month year in and year out for looking after a furnace or something of that nature, that is not casual earnings, but if you get one lucky break, like being a guide for a party of wealthy American sportsmen, and make \$200 or \$300 in a month, there is no difficulty in establishing that as casual.

Mr. QUELCH: You say there is no difficulty? A veteran, say, is forty-five per cent incapacitated and he sells a little bit of insurance for a commission,