

The only thing I have to say on this resolution—I am here to be contradicted if I am wrong, because I am not very well acquainted with parliamentary procedure—but in reading the *Hansards*, not only from this parliamentary committee but from previous ones, I might have to speak very bluntly about this, and I hope you will bear with me in what I have to say in this connection.

This committee is set up, consisting of so many members of parliament; but you have no power to offer suggestions to the government or to put pressure on the government to do what you would like them to do. You get a piece of paper on which they say: this is what you have to do. I do not know if I am correct in saying this, but you have no power or authority, by sitting here, to tell the government in your opinion what they should do. You have no power. The government can tell you; the government has the power to tell you; but you cannot tell them what you think they should do.

I do not know if I am correct in this, but we have advocated that a permanent veterans affairs committee be set up here, year after year. I think that last year the minister said that he did not think it was necessary because we could come to him at any time. But I think that with all the organizations we have, if we were all running up and down here every two or three months and bothering the government, that they would not want to receive us in the same way that they would at such a table as this; and we would only be dissolved and not able to carry our work in helping our widows.

I am sorry that the minister is not here, and I would stress it upon the chairman who probably has some influence with the minister, that a permanent committee be set up. At such a time I shall speak for our own organization if enough complaints come in, or if there is something we want to place before you; and I think that such a committee should meet, let us say, once every few months, and at least twice a year. We might have to come before that committee to discuss matters around the table, not in the way I am doing it now—or whoever it might be, because I may not be the president next year; it might be somebody else who would come. I think they would sit down at a round table conference and discuss a number of things and go into them much more fully than I can do it today. I think that would benefit all parties concerned. So I ask, on behalf of the Dominion Council of Canadian non-pensioned widows that this resolution be given every consideration.

Is there anything which any of the members would like to ask about? I do not suppose the members want to voice their own opinions on this resolution, so I guess we will leave it as it is.

Now there is something else I would like to mention, and I would ask that this be not put in the record.

The CHAIRMAN: I do not know.

The WITNESS: The Chairman does not know what I am going to say.

The CHAIRMAN: It has been decided by the committee that a record of our proceedings be made and I do not think that I have the power to direct that what the committee has decided and parliament has authorized, should not be carried out.

The WITNESS: Could we not solve this, and if the members feel that it should go on the record, it should go on. I do not think anyone in the room knows what it is except perhaps Mr. Bennett here.

Mr. BENNETT: I think it would be all right to have it go on the record, Mr. Chairman.