

and the widows—were denied any sort of assistance and we have hundreds of veterans' widows who are not getting any form of assistance whatever either through the war veterans allowance or in the form of social security in this country.

I noticed in the *Hansard* of the 10th of May that one of the members was speaking in the House on the same subject I am and he made a remark that many of the people who were receiving old age security might have fought against us in the war and that impressed me very much when I read that little paragraph in *Hansard*. I read all of *Hansard* and I cannot go through all the things which you gentlemen have said which have impressed me but that remark impressed me very much. I was pleased and impressed that a member said in the House of Commons and brought to the attention of the floor that many of the people who are drawing social security in the form of the old age pension—it might be \$40 a month for an individual and \$80 a month in the case of a couple—but probably some of these people fought against us in the first war and yet we have our own people in this country who are receiving no assistance. There is a part later on where that will come in under the work of the council.

Now, I do not presume that the government will take this into consideration, but I still think that the men who went to England did not do so in order to escape action and that England should be classed as a theatre of war as was done in the case of the second world war, I understand. I suppose, however, that at the time of the first world war Canada had never been in a war before and did not know very much about it. It would be in much the same position as we were when we started out new. We had to learn as we went along. I think the Canadian government has learned a great deal about pension legislation as the years have gone on—they might have made mistakes in the earlier days that cannot be rectified now—but I do not think there has ever been a law made that cannot be broken. I think there is always a way to get around a corner and I think matters should be adjusted to help the men unless the government intends to bring in another form of security program which would cover the men who only served in England.

Are there any other questions?

Well now, I think we will proceed with resolution (d).

(d) That the veterans widow in receipt of the allowance receive free medical care because the widow is unable to pay for herself and we ask that her family should not be penalized on her behalf.

This is another instance where we lost a good man. The late Colonel Carmichael who was very close to Senator Mackenzie was not only a brother to us but also a father in regard to giving us assistance and advice. Our delegation met on one occasion in the Transportation Building before a committee and I offered a suggestion at that time—I think I go back as far as 1943—that any recipient of a war veterans allowance—which was only \$20 at that time—should be given a small card by the government immediately upon receipt of the allowance to show that they were receiving the war veterans allowance and which would entitle them to free hospitalization when they went to a hospital. The question was asked: who is going to pay for this? I replied that I did not care who paid for it—it could be the provincial government or the federal government or both governments jointly. I have dealt with the provincial government down in Quebec and they threw their hands up and said: "You are a federal responsibility, the government had the war and they should look after the veterans and the widows." When I come to the federal government they say: "You are a provincial responsibility." I think there is a hole somewhere where we have to drop down and disappear. What can we do? We