

The main difficulty that appears to exist is that, even with a sub-district office in the Yukon, we would still have to do as much travelling; that is, the veterans would have to do as much travelling as we are doing now from Edmonton or Vancouver. Of course, most of the travelling we do is by plane. We have not been able to pin-point any area where there is a real preponderance of veterans to the exclusion of other areas in the Yukon.

In answer to your question, very definitely we are studying a method which will enable us to provide even better services than we are now providing.

Mr. SPEAKMAN: The point I am thinking about, Mr. Chairman, is the fact that Whitehorse now has a \$2½ million veteran hospital, and from my own knowledge—and it is three years since I have been there—there are, I would think, probably several thousand veterans numbered among the population of the Yukon.

In view of the very high cost of air travel, would it not be more economical to instal a sub-district office with, let us say, a principal clerk and a couple of junior clerks?

Mr. LALONDE: Would you mind, Mr. Chairman, reserving that question until Dr. Crawford is here, because he has been looking into that very problem and he has made some arrangements to provide that treatment in connection with the new hospital.

Mr. SPEAKMAN: I will do that; thank you.

Mr. LALONDE: If you would ask the question when he is before the committee he will be able to give you better information on this subject.

Mr. CARTER: Would Colonel Lalonde tell us the kind of set-up they have in London, England; is that purely a liaison office?

Mr. LALONDE: No, it is a complete district office, and it looks after all Canadians veterans living in England or anywhere on the continent who are entitled to some benefits under the charter.

Mr. CARTER: It is an exact duplicate of these district offices in Canada?

Mr. LALONDE: That is right, except they do not have any hospital; they use the hospital facilities of the United Kingdom government.

Mr. MATTHEWS: Are there many veterans in London and on the continent?

Mr. LALONDE: There are quite a few. Would it be agreeable to the committee if I provided that information at our next meeting?

Mr. MATTHEWS: Very good; thank you very much.

Mr. CARTER: Would you repeat that information for us; some of us did not hear the number of veterans overseas.

The CHAIRMAN: That information will be produced at our next sitting, Mr. Carter.

Mr. HERRIDGE: I might say I was in the London office in 1956, and while I was there at least a dozen veterans were waiting to see someone.

Mr. MACDONALD (*Kings*): Could you tell us, Colonel Lalonde, how the hospitalization is handled there; is it handled by the British department of veterans affairs and paid for by the Canadian government?

Mr. LALONDE: No, we have a senior treatment medical officer in the London office and he takes care of the examinations of veterans either for pension or treatment purposes. He is our liaison with the British hospital. They provide the beds; we pay for them. But the arrangements are made through our own Canadian doctor.

Mr. MONTGOMERY: Those are not private hospitals. What I am trying to get at is they have free hospital services for their own people. Does the government pay to the hospital?