

Bill 352 now before you. The effect of this proposed amendment is to write into the Act a "war clause" comparable to such clauses which appear in insurance contracts with regular insurance companies. The amendment would penalize an ex-service man who, having entered into contract for insurance under the Act, subsequently decides to further serve his country through enlistment in the Armed Forces. It is possible that if this amendment is adopted a veteran by again offering to serve his country will be depriving his family in the event of his death during service of the added protection which he sought to obtain for them. We suggest that this is unfair both to the veteran and to his dependents, and will undoubtedly have an adverse effect upon the Government's efforts to recruit World War II veterans for the Armed Forces. We feel that the saving effected by this move to bring the Veterans' Insurance Act into line with the policy of commercial companies will be inconsequential in comparison with the injustice and hardship which may result.

Recommendation—

The Legion therefore recommends that Section 11 be not amended as proposed in Bill 352.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Anderson. Section 10 is not covered by the amending bill, but when we come to section 11 I will ask Mr. Black, who is here, to deal with the criticism with respect to that.

I think we need not attempt, unless the committee wishes, a general description of what is proposed here. I think the explanatory notes are rather full, and perhaps we will get at it better if we proceed on a clause by clause examination of it, as we have the officials here to make the necessary explanations.

Clause 1:

(1) Subparagraphs (i) and (ii) of paragraph (c) of section two of *The Veterans Insurance Act*, chapter forty-nine of the statutes of 1944-45, are repealed and the following substituted therefor:

"(i) a legally adopted child;

(ii) a stepchild who is designated by the insured as a beneficiary and in such designation is described either by name or as a stepchild; and"

(2) Paragraphs (g) and (h) of section two of the said Act are repealed and the following substituted therefor:

"(g) 'Minister' means the Minister of Veterans Affairs or such other Minister as the Governor in Council may from time to time determine;

(h) 'parent' includes a father, mother, grandfather, grandmother, step-father, stepmother, foster-father, foster-mother, or either the insured or the spouse of the insured;"

(3) This is the usual change "army" and "military".

(4) Paragraph (l) of section two of the said Act is repealed and the following substituted therefor:

"(l) 'war' means the war that commenced in September, one thousand nine hundred and thirty-nine, and which, for the purposes of this Act, shall be deemed to have terminated on the thirtieth day of September, one thousand nine hundred and forty-seven."

Is there any discussion on clause 1?

Mr. GILLIS: Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to say this on clause 1: the phrase "legally adopted child" is something which I think all members have been bothered with over the years. There are many children in this country