

*Veterans Allowance Increases*

retired RCMP personnel, retired members of the armed forces, the permanent forces and so on became effective. It is also the date on which certain changes took place in the Members of Parliament pension plan. I would say that these increases we are now asking for our veterans should be retroactive to that date, and not one day later.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I have pleasure in moving, seconded by my colleague, the hon. member for Vancouver East (Mr. Winch):

That the motion be amended by changing the period at the end thereof to a comma, and by adding immediately thereafter the following words:

"and this House also urges that consideration be given to the making of any increases to be provided under the Pension Act or under the War Veterans Allowance Act retroactive to April 1, 1970, or to such earlier date as may be appropriate in certain cases."

I hope that in the way in which the House can do so, namely by what it says and by the attention it pays to this debate, the House as a whole will endorse the proposition of the main motion, that there should be early legislation in respect of the Pension Act and the War Veterans Allowance Act. I hope it will also endorse the proposition contained in my amendment, that the increases we hope will be provided under these two acts will be made retroactive back at least to April 1, 1970. Surely, this is the least we should do.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel):** The Chair has looked at the amendment just put by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) and it has a reservation as to the reference to the Pension Act in the amendment, knowing that the motion refers only to the War Veterans Allowance Act. This might have the tendency to open the debate further than intended by the general terms of the motion proposed by the hon. member for Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe (Mr. Marshall). In any case the Chair will, with this reservation, accept the motion.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, would you permit just a brief comment. The motion moved by the hon. member for Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe calls for legislative amendments that contain the recommendations set out in the second report of the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs. I happen to know that you were a member of the committee and Your Honour must know that everything in that report is a request for amendments to the Pension Act. It seems to me it is just a different way of saying the same thing, when I refer to increases under the Pension Act as well as to increases under the War Veterans Allowance Act.

• (3:50 p.m.)

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel):** Order. I do not wish to go into the terms of reference or the questions the hon. member has in mind in respect of the committee's recommendation concerning an increase in pensions. I have indicated to the hon. member that the Chair is ready to put the motion with some reservations. Therefore, I shall put the question immediately. The hon.

[Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre).]

member for Winnipeg North Centre, seconded by the hon. member for Vancouver East (Mr. Winch) moves:

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[*Translation*]

**Mr. Henry Latulippe (Compton):** Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure for me to say a few words about the motion put forward by the hon. member for Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe (Mr. Marshall) as well as the amendment put forward by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles).

There have been many studies and proposals concerning veterans. The government's White paper is an outcome of the Woods report.

Mr. Speaker, all this work was essential. Legislation providing for the welfare of our veterans should be revised because many of them have primary economic and financial needs to met, although they are unable to perform certain tasks as adequately as healthy people.

The legislation has been revised several times. Each year, the Committee on Veterans Affairs and the House have dealt with the needs of veterans.

I believe the information received until now is adequate and I think we could recommend implementing the conclusions of the Woods report. Besides, enforcing the decisions taken concerning the needs of the veterans has become imperative. It has always been a question of money and I believe that the implementation of the Woods Report was delayed on the same grounds. Indeed, the more we beat about the bush, the cheaper the whole business becomes for the Treasury.

Mr. Speaker, it is in the area of veterans' pensions, in my opinion, that we find good reason to congratulate the government. What is particularly remarkable is the attention it has always given to veterans and their families by paying them pensions constantly in keeping with the rising cost of living.

During the war and even afterwards, the widow of a veteran received at least \$100 a month for herself, \$40 a month for the first child, \$30 a month for the second child, \$25 a month for the third child and every other one. These are allowances which I consider appropriate.

What is also remarkable is that the children of veterans' widows, while receiving monthly allowances of \$40, \$30 or \$25 were entitled at the same time to monthly allowances of \$6 for children under ten and of \$8 for those between 10 and 15 inclusive. Those over 15 who wanted to go on with their studies received higher allowances than those paid to the children of parents who were not veterans.

The pension of war widows has been increased very often in keeping with the cost of living. As a matter of fact, from \$100 during and after the 1939-1945 war, it