

W.V.A. awards with the net result that a veteran with no other source of income would be eligible to receive the \$40 monthly universal pension plus \$10.83 under the War Veterans' Allowance Act. It should be understood that if these payments began to be made after January 1st to veterans 70 years of age or over, it would be difficult, if not impossible, to withstand demand at the next regular session to increase the basic rates for all W.V.A. recipients.

20. The Prime Minister said that the restriction respecting War Veterans' Allowances had been deleted from the draft old age security legislation because of the contributory nature of the pensions scheme and because payments under the latter Act were meant to be made to all persons 70 years of age or over, meeting certain residence requirements without any implication, even indirect, of means test considerations. Furthermore it might be argued that a veteran, because he was a veteran, was entitled to slightly better treatment than other citizens upon reaching his seventieth birthday. However, the problem should be considered again carefully before the old age security legislation was introduced in the House.

21. The Cabinet, after discussion, noted the report by the Minister of Veterans Affairs on the relationship which would exist between the universal pension and War Veterans' Allowance awards after January 1st, 1952, and deferred decision in this matter pending further consideration at the next meeting.

Gold; premium sales; emergency gold mining assistance

22. The Minister of Finance said that, following the statement on September 28th by the International Monetary Fund concerning premium gold sales, the Canadian Executive Director had made it clear that Canada would consider it had the right to take whatever action it saw fit with respect to such sales. An immediate question concerned the future of the Emergency Gold Mining Assistance Act and the relationship of the act to any plan for premium sales. There were three possibilities:

- (a) to continue assistance and give the mines the additional benefits from access to premium markets;

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