

SUBMISSION TO PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON VETERANS'
AFFAIRS, MAY 13, 1952

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen:—

As representatives of the National Council of Veterans' Associations, we appreciate this opportunity which you have afforded us to present recommendations on behalf of veterans in general and the disabled, whom we represent.

As a first comment in this presentation we wish to gratefully acknowledge the improvements in veterans' legislation especially in respect to the Canadian Pension Act as provided in 1951.

At this time we are primarily concerned with a remedy for the unfortunate circumstances affecting recipients of war veterans allowance as a result of economic conditions which have developed in Canada, especially during the past three years. We are also interested in the proposed amendments to the Canadian Pension Act and the Veterans Insurance Act.

As a representative and co-operative group of ex-servicemen's organizations, we are pleased to meet so many members of the House of Commons who have shown a continuing and practical interest in fair and adequate provisions for those ex-servicemen whose disabilities and/or circumstances have made it necessary for them to look to the government of this country for the consideration they may need.

Our recommendations and comments are recorded as follows:

WAR VETERANS ALLOWANCE ACT

Recommendation One.

That war disabled ex-servicemen in receipt of compensation, any class, who have become unemployable, shall be eligible for war veterans allowance with complete exemption of war disability compensation.

Comment

The basic rates of war disability compensation for single and married men were increased with effect from January 1, 1952 in order to meet existing higher standards and costs of living. We have felt that the unemployable veteran on partial compensation has suffered considerable hardship through inability to qualify for war veterans allowance to any extent. The single 50 per cent unemployable war disabled at the new rates received \$62.50 per month, while the single veterans allowance case may receive \$50.83 at the old unchanged rates, including supplementation from the veterans assistance fund. The married 50 per cent unemployable war disabled man may at the new rates receive \$85.00 per month, while the married veterans allowance case may receive \$85.00, at the old unchanged rates, including supplementation from the veterans assistance fund. In general, our council representatives appreciated the unemployability supplement and its provisions. We feel that some hardship is presently being experienced by some war disabled, especially those rated at 50 per cent to 65 per cent. The present basic rate of compensation still contemplates encouragement to employment activity and supplementation. Those who are incapable of supplementation, especially those on 40 per cent or more war disability compensation are not permitted assistance from the war veterans allowance and have no other means of supplementing their income to a reasonable standard. This is consistent with our resolution of 1948, that compensation should not be computed as income in respect to application for war veterans allowance.