

savage torture and harsh treatment, but now, at this late date, further assistance or relief for these Hong Kong veterans is being denied.

One has only to take a look at the monthly Legion magazine where there can be found each month under the heading "Last Post" the recorded names of over 400 deceased veterans. And this list only applies to Legion members.

The manner in which the Woods Report has been handled is an example of how our "Just Society" operates and how the matter of priorities is arranged. It is now in the sixteenth month since this report was tabled and apparently there was no need for any priorities so far as the Woods Report was concerned, but in this Parliament there was a priority for the omnibus bill, which dealt with abortion and homosexuality—and how nice it is that the pansy boys can now operate in public and within the law. And in this chamber there was the hate bill that made it a crime in Canada to advocate or promote genocide. Those are two great examples of the "Just Society" and the matter of priorities.

I wonder how the paraplegic veteran, who is chained to a wheelchair for life, will feel when he reads that his pension is now considered part of social welfare legislation. What about the blind pensioner who gave his most precious sight for his country? Will he be flattered to learn that his pension is considered welfare benefits? What about the veterans with single and double amputations, the veterans with multiple disabilities—how they will appreciate learning that their pensions are now part of social welfare legislation! Where is their right under the Pension Act that such veterans receive a pension as a matter of right—the paraplegics, the blind, the amputees, the veterans suffering from multiple disabilities? Won't they be amazed when they read the statement of the Prime Minister on page 10242 of *Hansard* when he referred to veterans pensions, and I quote:

We are trying to establish a policy that will review this legislation at as little cost to the Canadian people as is necessary.

Honourable senators, how do you assess the disabilities of a paraplegic, a blind veteran, a double or single amputee, a veteran with multiple disabilities, or a man with the disabilities of a Hong Kong veteran? I do not need to say that you cannot purchase new eyesight; you cannot purchase new legs or

arms; you cannot remove the disabilities suffered by the Hong Kong veterans.

The basic rate of pension in Canada has always been paid on the wage of the common labourer in the labour market. The Woods Report, at page 493 of volume 2, confirms this basic rate. It reads as follows:

The amount for 100 per cent pension should continue to be the earning power of a man in the class of the untrained labourer, as determined by the average wage for this type of employment in the Public Service of Canada.

I should point out to honourable senators that to date the amount of the basic pension has never equalled the wage paid to the common labourer in the labour market.

Representatives from this chamber and from the other place have only recently returned to Canada from France where they took part in the D-Day celebrations. Once again we read in the press of the part played by Canadian troops, both in the landing in Normandy and in the liberation of France, Holland and Belgium. Once again Canadians wrote the name of Canada large in the history of the world.

Most of us, especially those of us who have been in the House of Commons, recall that it has always been the custom that the Minister of Veterans Affairs should be a veteran. We had two very distinguished members in this Senate who were Ministers of Veterans Affairs: the late honourable Senator Chubby Power and the late honourable Alf Brooks. I can remember two other very outstanding Ministers of Veterans Affairs in the other place, Milton Gregg, V.C., and the late Ian MacKenzie. But the present Minister of Veterans Affairs is not a veteran, and veterans cannot understand that situation developing. For how can any civilian Minister of Veterans Affairs, no matter what his abilities, his education, his qualifications, how can he possibly understand the problems of veterans?

A few days ago you read of the landing on the beaches of Normandy, landing made under heavy artillery, machine gun fire, mortar shells, barbed wire entanglements, pill-boxes, gas and all the other refinements of war whereby men are killed. Canadian troops landed and advanced through all this and gained their objectives. They saw their comrades mowed down with machine gun fire and blown to bits, men with eyes shot out, with heads blown off, with their guts hanging