

But the man who has got something wrong with him which neither he nor his doctors can find needs more help for the remedying of it.

There is another point, that is in connection with the allowable income. Having started off, as I did, by contending that the war veterans allowance now be treated as a form of war disability pension, it brings up the matter of old age security.

At the present time, as I understand it, when a recipient of war veterans allowance reaches the age of 70—the few who live that long—he loses in his war veterans allowance to the extent of the old age security, which affects his allowable income.

We in the National Council of Veterans and in our own organization particularly do not feel that that is right. The disability pensioner should properly receive old age security and it should not affect his pension at all. We feel that the recipient of the war veterans allowance—if he should manage to live as long as 70—should receive it, together with all others who are 70—every citizen of Canada who is qualified to receive old age security to which he has contributed if he has been taxable during his lifetime—without it affecting his war veterans allowance.

It is a small thing to give to the disabled veteran even when his disability is not identifiable, to give him for the last few years of his life the same \$40 which everybody—from the richest man in Canada down—gets without question.

There is another question which has been raised. It has not been raised in our brief, but in other briefs, and therefore is before your committee. It is the payment of the war veterans allowance to Canadian veterans not resident in Canada.

Our council in discussing that matter informally as we did this morning, approached it with some difficulty.

We understand that wherever the veteran lives outside of Canada, he will have available to him whatever social services and other welfare assistance that is available to all residents in that country.

We do feel, however, that if a veteran has once received the war veterans allowance in Canada, or has qualified for it in Canada—although he may not yet have actually received it—that it becomes necessary for him, under competent medical advice—perhaps I should not go so far as to say “necessary”, but if it becomes desirable for him, for his health, to go and live under climatic conditions which are not available in our country—with reasonable safeguards—such as a reviewing of his medical examinations, or the medical evidence by competent departmental doctors, for instance, to afford safeguards to make sure that the facts were as alleged—if it is necessary or advisable for a man entitled to the war veterans allowance to go to a climate not available to him in Canada, then we feel, in justice to him and to our own consciences, that he should receive the same considerations under the War Veterans Allowance Act as if he remained in Canada.

I do not think that any reasonable or decent person could quarrel with that position.

There have been some recommendations that any veterans who served in Britain during World War I should receive the benefit of this legislation.

We have considered that at some length and while we are not prepared at the present time definitely to say “No. We would not support such a position”, we are not prepared at the present time to support it, for two reasons. The first is, that we believe the position we are taking now, and the things we are now recommending we can justify beyond any question; and until we have given more study and consideration to the other question, we do not feel perhaps that we can justify such a recommendation.