

The CHAIRMAN: Now pursuant to the report of the subcommittee which has just been adopted, it has been decided that we deal with Bill 101. Members of the department, including the deputy minister, are here today, and I think it was the thought of the subcommittee that we would take this bill clause by clause and if there were any clauses on which any members of the committee wanted to ask questions the members of the department would be available to answer them. General Burns, would you come forward, please? This is General Burns, the deputy minister, whom I suppose you all know, and Mr. Parliament is with him. Mr. Parliament is in charge of the veterans welfare services.

Mr. E. L. M. Burns, Deputy Minister, Department of Veterans Affairs, called:

The CHAIRMAN: Clause 1. Carried.

Mr. GREEN: Could we have an explanation from the deputy minister as to just what groups of veterans are covered by this bill?

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Burns, would you please tell us that?

The WITNESS: Mr. Chairman, this bill relates to the veterans who served in the theatre of operations in Korea.

Mr. MacDougall: I wonder if the deputy minister would speak louder?

The CHAIRMAN: Perhaps you would stand and repeat your answer, Mr. Burns. It is very difficult for the members sitting in the back of the room to hear you.

The WITNESS: The veterans referred to in this bill, Mr. Chairman, are those who served in one theatre of operations relating to Korea, plus a certain number of pensioners of the special force who were injured or who suffered some disability before actually proceeding there.

By Mr. Goode:

Q. While the deputy minister is on this explanation I would like to ask a question. What will be our position in regard to the men in Europe relative to a bill of this kind?—A. This only affects those in Europe in regard to reinstatement in civilian employment and unemployment insurance. The bill provides them protection in both those respects.

Q. Will it be considered that the men in Europe will be on the same basis as the men in Korea as far as general benefits are concerned?

The CHAIRMAN: As has been pointed out, that is a question of governmental policy and we can reserve that to be dealt with later unless Mr. Bennett would care to make a comment.

Mr. BENNETT: The basis that most of these benefits apply to veterans in the Korean warfare was on the premise that they were in actual combat. I suppose that consideration would be given to the veterans in Germany and other places in the world as far as the unemployment sections of the bill are concerned but the general basis of these benefits was that the members of the Armed Services were in a theatre of operations in Korea and were entitled to the same benefits under the veterans charter as the veterans in World War II and the rehabilitation measures for World War I.

By Mr. Goode:

Q. Is this bill to include veterans who served in Korea regardless of whether it was before the cessation of hostilities or after?—A. Those who went to Korea after hostilities ceased are not entitled to the benefits, with