

Mr. GREEN: I do not suggest for a moment, General, that you are trying to mislead the committee. I don't say that for a minute; but I am thinking of the effect of a statement of that kind, right across the country; that it might very well give a wrong impression, because it is perfectly obvious to me that there is not to be any such thing as a general presumption that disability is a major factor in the unemployability; and yet that is what you said in your opening remarks the other day. Am I correct in summing up?

The WITNESS: My feeling at this time, Mr. Chairman, is that when the district offices begin to adjudicate on any applicant's case—let us say he is a 75 per cent pensioner—they would normally think "This man can't get a job, and his disability probably is a main reason for that". Unless there was something in the circumstances or records which indicated that that was not a main reason, then he would get the supplement.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. White, you were trying to get the floor a moment ago; will you go ahead and put your question?

Mr. WHITE: I want to ask the deputy minister with respect to this allowance—that is the supplementary allowance of \$40—if the veteran is granted it under the regulations how long will he continue to receive it, and how is he going to check up on employment and that angle of it?

The WITNESS: Well, it depends, of course on renewal of the legislation in the first instance; but so long as the legislation, or subsequent legislation, is in force each year there will be a check to determine whether the pensioner is employed or not.

The CHAIRMAN: The same as war veterans allowance.

The WITNESS: It is similar; but there you have to go into the question of means which you do not have in this case.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: But is there an appeal from the district representative for one reason or another?

The WITNESS: Yes.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: Suppose for the sake of argument there is the usual two or three months delay in the final decision, when they get it, would it be retroactive?

The WITNESS: The date of the receipt of the application in the district office would govern.

The CHAIRMAN: You had a question, Mr. Herridge. I was not able to hear you.

Mr. HERRIDGE: I would like to ask the deputy minister a question. What would happen to a man in circumstances such as these: I am thinking of a pensioner who is employed in a small community, able to work, who has employment, but who as a result of some civilian accident finds himself in the position where he cannot work. He then apparently becomes totally unemployed. How would a case of that kind be treated?

The WITNESS: If the pension was for disability of a considerable extent so he would be handicapped in finding employment, I think that the man would certainly be entitled to the supplement.

Mr. QUELCH: If he had employment he would not get it.

The CHAIRMAN: He might have independent means and still be out of work. Mr. Gillis, you are next.

Mr. GILLIS: Yes. I just wanted to say, Mr. Chairman, I think Mr. Croll had his finger on the joker in the whole thing. There is no suggestion of presumption in this at all. In making the disability the major contributing factor of unemployability you are tying the hands completely of those who administer it. I do not think the present pension has anything to do with it at