

The CHAIRMAN: It may be that those are points which the department is considering in their review of the act.

Mr. BENIDICKSON: I think we should make it known that this is a matter about which the minister should be questioned at a later meeting.

Mr. ROGERS: As a matter of interest, who is responsible for establishing the classification of disabilities and are they reviewed from time to time?

The CHAIRMAN: I believe Mr. Anderson will answer that.

Mr. ANDERSON: As I said before the table of disabilities is under constant review and the rates therein are established by the pension commission.

Mr. HERRIDGE: Would the chairman of the pension commission mind seeing that those members of parliament who have copies of the table of disabilities also have copies of the amendments.

Mr. FANE: In addition might those of us who do not have a copy of the table of disabilities have such table and the amendments.

Mr. BENIDICKSON: Could it be appended to the reports of one of our meetings?

Mr. ANDERSON: This would be worth looking into. This was a confidential document until a few years ago when it was released. But I am not too sure of the terms. I will have to look into that first.

Mr. STEARNS: In respect of the pensions to widows, apparently under the War Veterans Allowance Act the widow receives the full allowance for a year. I would like to ask whether that was in the original act or whether it was adopted a few years ago?

Mr. LALONDE: I understand that was adopted in 1952 or 1954.

Mr. CARTER: My understanding is that when a pensioner with a 50 per cent disability pension or higher dies his pension is automatically continued; there is no interruption of the pension. Is that correct?

An Hon. MEMBER: Over 50 per cent.

Mr. CARTER: This recommendation applies to those under 50 per cent.

Mr. BELL: No. Our recommendation applies to widows of pensioners pensioned at the rate of 60 per cent or above and that for that one year period they should be placed on the same basis as widows of war veterans allowance recipients. After the end of the year they would resume the regular rate for the widow.

Mr. CARTER: What is the difference at the present time? When a pensioner dies and he has a pension of 50 per cent or over, what is the difference in respect of what the widow would receive now without this legislation?

Mr. BUTLER: If a widow had a 100 per cent pensioner for her husband when he was alive, on his death she would receive \$115 a month. That is the widow's allowance if she has no children. If our request were acceded to she would continue at the same rate as when he was alive, \$200 a month instead of \$115 for the one year period and that would be graded down depending on the percentage of pension.

Mr. BENIDICKSON: You state that the widow of a war veterans allowance recipient gets, for one year, the same amount she was getting just prior to the veterans death?

Mr. BUTLER: Yes.

Mr. LALONDE: That is subject to a means test.

Mr. BENIDICKSON: That allowance might change if there was insurance payable?

Mr. LALONDE: That is correct; or if she had other income.