

I dealt with this particular case many years ago and I understood that under the War Veterans Allowance an incapacitated child, when the parents were under the war veterans allowance, could not be cared for. I remember coming to Ottawa and discussing it with Brigadier Melville—who used to sit down with us in little groups along with whoever would come from the war veterans allowance department—and it was decided, many years ago when the war veterans allowance came in. I have to speak briefly of my own case.

A widow was getting the war veterans allowance. She had an incapacitated son at that time which, I think, was around 1943, and at that time he was 37 years of age. Both the widow and her son lived with her married daughter. And after the allowance came through—I thought supposing this widow should die; what is going to happen to this boy?

So I came back to Ottawa and spoke about it to Brigadier Melville and his colleagues and they decided to try to do something about it. There was a pleasant surprise about the whole thing when there was a resolution passed that a dependent child, incapacitated, would be taken care of. This had gone on for quite a few years. Then we came back again and I asked the department: what would happen if the mother should die? Would the allowance be continued to the child?

Oh no. So the government came across again and said: if someone were appointed as a trustee for the incapacitated child, they could keep them and look after them.

Recently I had a case of an incapacitated child and I advised the widow. I do not think the widow will feel very badly if I speak of this case. The widow and her daughter are here today. The widow is my vice-president and she is here as a delegate.

When this lady got in touch with me I spoke to her about going on the allowance. May I ask Mrs. White to stand up. Mrs. White is standing up and her daughter is sitting beside her; and she has an incapacitated child who is 33 years of age.

When Mrs. White came to see me I tried to counsel her and I said that if she could come under the war veterans allowance, if she could get it for herself and her daughter, it might save her daughter from having to go out to work under the present conditions and circumstances in which she is. I do not want to bring that up today.

So I went over to the D.V.A. and I spoke to Colonel Hague and other members, and he told me that there was nothing in the Act that would provide for an incapacitated child over 21 years of age, and that after the age of 21 there would be no provision under the War Veterans Allowance Act for that child.

I was rather disappointed. First I went to Ottawa about it where I was told that there would be. Then I went to Colonel Hague and he said: "No." However, Colonel Hague wrote to Ottawa and this letter which I have with me was received in reply to the letter from Colonel Hague. It reads as follows:

During the interview I had with you and Mrs. White last Friday, the 27th November, we discussed the question of the payment of an orphan's allowance under the War Veterans Allowance Act to an orphan twenty-one years of age or over, and I expressed the view that under no circumstances could an orphan twenty-one years or over be paid the allowance.

I have since been in correspondence with the Chairman of the Board in this connection, and he has confirmed that the War Veterans Allowance Act 1952 does not permit the payment of an allowance to an orphan after she has attained the age of twenty-one years.