

The Canadian *Legion* magazine of March 1969, at page 6, reads as follows:

On page ten of this issue we publish a further reference to the momentous Woods Report. It is a summary of the joint statement prepared by the Legion and ten other nationally-chartered veterans organizations in Canada for presentation to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs.

The statement concentrates on four of the major recommendations in the Report. These deal with the appointment of a Pension Appeal Board, the need to establish an adequate basic rate of pension, the Hong Kong veterans and their dependents, and the pensioners suffering from multiple disabilities.

It is published in considerable detail so that our readers, as members of the Legion, will be able to familiarize themselves with these major recommendations of the Woods Report and be in a position to discuss them intelligently with people who can help support the veterans' cause.

Pages 10 and 11 of that issue set out the recommendations from the Canadian Legion. They close their statement by saying that ten other veterans organizations approve of this brief.

In the present issue of the Canadian *Legion* for June and July 1969 there is an editorial headed, "We want fair play!" Part of it reads as follows:

As this issue went to press in the closing days of May, the long-promised White Paper on war disability pension legislation had not been presented to the House of Commons. Consequently, the Woods Report remained in limbo on Parliament Hill and veterans' organizations found themselves still frustrated in their attempts to present their views on its recommendations to the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs.

The editorial goes on to condemn the attitude of the Government in every possible way for the manner in which they dealt with the Woods Report. The editorial closes:

The Legion feels that it is too casual a way to deal with such an important document as the Woods Report. The Legion looks upon any discussion of the contents of the Woods Report as serious business. If the Minister is going to allow the Chairman of the Pension Commission or any other department official to appear

before Members of Parliament and dispose of a number of recommendations of the Woods Report with a prepared statement that cannot be subjected to a critical analysis by those who hope to benefit from the Report, then much of its value will be lost.

Canada's war veterans and their widows deserve fairer treatment than that!

To put it mildly, the veterans organizations and veterans individually are keenly disappointed with the Government in taking no action in regard to this report. A new word has crept in in reference to veterans pensions, and that is that veterans pensions are now part of social legislation. They are welfare benefits.

Another phrase that was used in the other place in reference to veterans pensions was, "the whole social security review and the national social welfare program." This places the veterans pensions on the charity list. Someone should advise the Government that under the Pensions Act veterans' pensions are paid as a matter of right. There is certainly no charity or welfare payment connected with army pensions.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. White: Any veteran who can chisel a pension from the mandarins who compose the Pension Commission knows only too well how dearly he paid for that pension. Of course, today in Parliament it appears popular to have intellectual doves who had no service in any of the forces, but who viewed the last war as an imperialist war and stayed home. Of course the war was long ago and many people forget that if it had not been for the thousands of young Canadians, along with the hundreds of thousands of their allies, we would not be sitting in this comfortable chamber today. We would all be speaking German and there would be no bilingual problem.

I read from the report in the other place that there is also the question of how the money is to be raised to pay for veterans' pensions. Does the Minister of Veterans Affairs not realize that time is fast running out for many veterans of both wars, especially for the Hong Kong veterans?

I can remember over 20 years ago sitting on a veterans committee in the other place when in camera a number of Hong Kong veterans appeared before the committee and told us in detail of their torture and the ordeals they suffered. We heard expert medical evidence as to the physical results of this