

not my intention to deal with it at any greater length this evening.

Mr. G. R. PEARKE (Nanaimo): Mr. Speaker, I should like to bring to your attention one amendment which will work great hardship on a certain group of veterans. I refer to the statement made by the minister on April 16 concerning the veterans of the permanent force who will be deemed to have been discharged or retired from the force as of September 30, 1947. When we were discussing this amendment during the resolution stage, at one time the minister was under the impression that I was referring to the younger men who were joining the permanent force. I want to make it quite clear that I refer to the veterans who served during the second world war and who decided to remain on in the active forces of this country. When a man joins the active forces he enlists for a definite period of time, for five years in the Royal Canadian Navy, five years in the Royal Canadian Air Force, and from three to five years in the Canadian army.

These men on the 30th day of September, 1947, were discharged or, I should say, ceased to be in the interim forces, and many of them on that day or on the following day or at some subsequent period decided to enlist in the active forces. They entered as it were into a contract with the government to give their services in the active forces and to receive in return certain pay and allowances. At that time, as they knew, rehabilitation allowances were then being granted to men who were being discharged from the army, navy or air force at the time they took their discharge. Those are the allowances which veterans coming within the army, navy or air force have been entitled to, provided that they make application within twelve months of the time of their discharge.

I submit that the men who remained on did so in some cases fully realizing that they would be eligible for these allowances when the period of their service was terminated. The justice of such a course would seem to be illustrated by subsequent remarks made by the minister when he said, as reported at page 3068 of *Hansard*, in the discussion.

If by any chance he is discharged—

That is, one of these veterans.

—now or next week or next year he will, of course, come under whatever remaining benefits there may be related to the last war.

Again on the following page he said:

As they come out from month to month, they will certainly be entitled to such rehabilitation benefits as gratuities, re-establishment or Veterans' Land Act benefits.

We are discussing at the moment rehabilitation allowances, awaiting business returns and education allowances in the main. I submit that at this stage when men are through their term of enlistment, and when they have in good faith carried out the terms of the contract which they made with the government, it is a gross breach of contract to say now that they may not get those benefits to which it was agreed or understood at the time they would be entitled, and which the minister on Friday night thought they would be allowed to get as they came out from month to month, or this week or next week or some time next year.

I feel that the bill as it is presented to us establishes a cut-off line, the 30th day of September, 1947; and twelve months after that, which I suggest is the 30th day of September, 1948, these men would not be entitled to the allowances to which I have referred.

The only fair way to deal with this matter would be to say they would be entitled to these allowances until the termination of their enlistment contract; that is, until the end of the three or five years, as the case may be, for which they have entered into a contract with this government to serve under the terms decided upon in 1946 or whenever they joined. A man decided, perhaps at the end of 1946, that he would stay on in the permanent force because he would realize at that time he was not ready to start up in business or he was not ready to take that course of training which he desired in order to complete his re-establishment into civil life. So he entered into a contract with this government for a term of three or five years' service, and I submit that it is a gross breach of faith to break that contract at this time.

I hope the minister will consider an amendment to the amendment so as to enable the veteran who is now serving in the active forces to complete his first term of enlistment and, at the conclusion of that term of enlistment, to receive all the allowances which are now in force under the rehabilitation act.

Mr. HOWARD C. GREEN (Vancouver South): Mr. Speaker, as the house knows, it is under this act that assistance is given to veterans attending university. On Friday evening we had a short discussion with regard to these particular veterans, and on Saturday morning, as luck would have it, I received a brief on the "Financial Problems of Student Veterans at the University of British Columbia," submitted by the university branch of the Canadian Legion. That branch is very strong and well run, and in the past its summaries of situations faced by the student