

our Canadian heroes who are no longer with us. I think it should be kept in mind that the list of those eligible for benefits and pensions gets smaller and smaller every year.

Surely the time has come to give those veterans in Canada who did not have the opportunity of serving abroad, but who served here for at least 365 days, the opportunity to apply for War Veterans Allowance. Moreover, if they are 65 years or over, they should also be eligible for the aging veterans program or the VIP program. In that way, they could receive help with shovelling their driveways in the winter time and having the grass cut in the summer. Also, if they are disabled or crippled, they could be eligible for homemaker services as other war veterans are.

We are finding that there is a great need for more nursing home beds to be made available for veterans. A capital works program should be set up to take care of that need for beds as well as for chronic care units. Many of our veterans today are now senior citizens and are becoming disabled. No doubt the VIP program has helped to keep them at home as long as possible. However, many of them can no longer stay home. They need nursing care and chronic hospital care, but the beds are not available for them.

In the past federal governments thought it wise to assign a proportion of veterans' hospital beds to provincial governments. In retrospect, that action seems a little hasty, since those beds are now needed as hospital beds and chronic beds for the veterans themselves. However, I believe that some arrangement could be worked out with the provinces so that

the necessary chronic care hospitals could be constructed on a joint basis, whether 75/25 or 60/40, and the needs of veterans could be taken care of, especially over the next five to seven years, when, as I see it, the need for such care will increase.

Honourable senators, I could go on and on about the things that our veterans should have. However, the motion before this chamber is with respect to those veterans who have not returned to Canada but are still living abroad. Let me say that that is at least a step in the right direction. We can look forward 120 days to when the Leader of the Government in the Senate will, I hope, bring back to this chamber a response from the government of the day on what action it intends to take concerning this matter. All I can say is that I hope the government will give this motion its full support.

I know that the minister himself would like to support it, because he, too, is a veteran; he believes in their case and always listens to their concerns. However, it is sometimes difficult for the Minister of Veterans Affairs to have his wishes accepted by cabinet as a whole. Therefore, I would ask the Leader of the Government in the Senate, who seems to have great clout in the cabinet, to put his shoulder to the wheel and support the Minister of Veterans Affairs with respect to this matter. I am quite sure that, if he does that, we will receive a good report—perhaps in less than 120 days. In any event, I give full support to this motion of Senator Marshall's and Senator Phillips'.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear!

Motion agreed to.

The Senate adjourned until tomorrow at 2 p.m.