

Children of War Dead Act

of higher education. It also excludes a child whose parent's death is compensable under a workmen's compensation act, or by legal liability on some person to pay damages, and the amount collected is such as to preclude the payment of pension which would otherwise be paid.

It further excludes a child whose parent's death is service-connected but, because of some technicality preventing payment of pension under the usual section of the Pension Act, an award is made by the commission under the compassionate clause. It excludes a child whose parent's death is found by the Canadian pension commission to be a direct result of a specific military duty in peacetime. And, finally, it excludes the child of a veteran who upon discharge from the forces is passed directly to my department for treatment and dies during such treatment. The Pension Act provides that in these circumstances pension is awarded to eligible dependents.

The bill which will be introduced later would extend eligibility for education assistance to the groups that I have mentioned. None of the groups is very large, but to the individual child his eligibility is of great importance. The government feels that justice and equity will be served by the proposed amendments, and I wish to point out that they preserve the principle of relationship of death to service.

Another amendment, and this I consider a very necessary and important one, would permit payment of the allowance at a rate of \$60 a month where pension has ceased at the twenty-first birthday of the child. Prior to that age, pension would normally have been paid at \$40 a month and an allowance of \$25 is granted under the Children of War Dead (Education Assistance) Act. Experience has shown that the sharp decline in income upon discontinuance of pension is inadvisable, and it is proposed to adjust the situation by paying an allowance at the same rate that was granted to the single veteran student taking higher education under the Veterans Rehabilitation Act.

Mr. Chevrier: Mr. Chairman, I rise not to delay this resolution in any way but to tell the minister and the committee that we on this side welcome the bill which will be brought in following the adoption of this resolution. As I understand the statement made by the minister, the resolution divides itself under two heads; that is, first, it is sought here to extend the benefits of the act known as the Children of War Dead (Education Assistance) Act to classes of persons other than those now covered by the act and, second, also to increase the allowances that may be paid in certain cases as the minister has set out.

[Mr. Brooks.]

I have also listened with interest to the restrictions as to eligibility as the minister has detailed them here, and while I am unable to pass any comment on the validity of the amendments it would seem to us none the less that they appear on their face to be of the kind that should be approved by the house. Because of that we will be happy to see the bill receive second reading and sent to the committee on veterans affairs, so that it may be considered by that committee.

Meanwhile I wonder if the minister could say at this stage how much higher than the estimates are the number of children receiving educational assistance under the act? He said the figures were higher than those estimated when the act was introduced and he thought that was all to the good, with which I think I would agree. I wonder if when the time comes to reply the minister would give those figures at this stage.

Mr. Herridge: Mr. Chairman, I am sure there is complete unanimity in the committee on the amendments proposed by the minister in this resolution. I was interested when he mentioned the fact that the number who were eligible was somewhat higher than was expected. I am pleased to hear that, and to learn that the act has been of benefit to a larger number than we expected.

I notice that there are two amendments. One extends the eligibility to include certain groups presently excluded, as explained by the minister, and we are pleased to support that proposal. The second amendment provides for the payment of an allowance of \$60 per month which, if I understood the minister correctly, is the same amount paid to student veterans.

I am keen on this act because I know of a number of cases of children of deceased veterans in my constituency who have benefited from this act, and I want to emphasize the following remarks. When we can spend millions of dollars to bring certain immigrants to this country, and in some cases spend good Canadian dollars to bring and maintain immigrants here for a year who have fought against us, there should not be a single disabled veteran in this country suffer on any account because of the failure of this government to provide for his needs. Second, there should not be a single veteran's dependant in this country suffer on any account whatever or because of the failure of this government to provide for his or her needs. And third, and of equal importance, there should not be a single child of a deceased veteran who has