

amending the Veterans' Land Act—there may be one on that, but we will discuss it anyway. And the treatment regulations, of course, will all be filed before you for consideration. They come under a departmental bill, the veterans' act itself. There may be other bills, but I think that covers it.

Mr. GREEN: Are the regulations to be put in the form of a bill?

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE: Not necessarily, they never have been yet. They come under the departmental bill. I think they should be open for discussion here. It was felt that it would alter the general procedure for the last twenty-five or thirty years. Treatment has always been more a matter of departmental procedure.

The CHAIRMAN: The reason for suggesting that they be not put in the form of a bill is that if they were put in the form of a bill it would freeze them. They are now in the form of regulations under the Veterans' Act, but they will be filed for consideration before the committee.

I suppose we may take it that you have made a motion that the clerk of the committee advise the various veterans' organizations of the terms of reference and request them to make replies as soon as possible.

Agreed.

Mr. GREEN: There is another question I should like to ask. There was mention made in the speech from the throne of a veterans' charter. Is there to be some general bill of that type or is the idea merely to bring in a different amending act?

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE: I wonder if I might just explain that. It was my hope and my dream at one time that we could do it in that way, but unfortunately there are other lawyers as well as my hon. friend, and they said it would not be possible to proceed in that way. What we intend to do, with the permission of this committee, is to go through all these various measures, with the recommendations of this committee, and as we dispose of them here report them at once to the House of Commons; then have them endorsed or amended by the House of Commons. Then immediately the House of Commons shall have completed its task, there will be an office consolidation of all the findings of this committee and of the House. That would be what you might call a veterans' charter. It would be one composite document of the legislation, regulations and orders in council, in statutory form for the benefit and information of all our soldiers.

Mr. GILLIS: A bill of rights.

Mr. GREEN: No, it is not a bill of rights. It is a lot of different bills which, together, are the statute.

Mr. GILLIS: It is up to this committee to make it a bill of rights.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE: I think it will be of great benefit to our soldiers' organizations to have everything in one book.

Mr. GILLIS: Surely.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE: The intention I had was that whatever the House of Commons will finally endorse should be, by the Department of Veterans Affairs, placed together so that every Legion branch, Corps branch, Army and Navy branch or Pensioners branch throughout Canada could have the whole thing before them in one place.

Mr. QUELCH: In view of the fact that we are passing legislation affecting merchant seamen, could we not get a brief from them?

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE: Oh, yes. We are prepared, if you give us enough time, to hear representations from all these organizations.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, you have been handed out a great deal of reading material for the coming week-end. I think you will find this Reference