VETERANS AFFAIRS

Would it not be a good idea, in the event that that was adopted, that the district officers pass upon the need for the egress of a particular veteran from Canada to the United States? If that were made possible, you would then, I think, be able to separate the sheep from the goats in deciding in cases of veterans who would like to transfer for a period of time into the warmer and drier climes of certain states of the United States. As a wide-open proposition, I am not too sure that it would work successfully, either for the Legion or for the administration of the D.V.A.; but if some safeguard along the lines that I have suggested were adopted, I would personally be quite happy to see this additional provision made.

The CHAIRMAN: I understand that the Legion's representations are that it should apply to everyone, and I take it that they do not want to be drawn into that suggested limitation.

The WITNESS: We cannot very well differentiate. If the department did, of course, that would be their concern. We bring forward the views that our organization has passed at conventions.

Mr. PEARKES: I was very interested to read what you have to say towards the end of page 5 in your presentation. It reads:

Section 4 and the provisions governing casual earnings also recognize the desirability of self-help, but this recognition is not extended to those who by forethought and thrift have gained for themselves small pensions or retirement annuities.

If I understand the regulations correctly, a man who is capable of working and earning by casual work may augment his allowance by \$50 a month, but a person who is unable to work and who by this very thrift and forethought which you have mentioned has saved up a little income, he is limited to only \$10 a month over and above his allowance. I would ask whether you have had any experience with regard to veterans who are not eligible to come under the War Veterans Allowance Act because the amount that they have saved in what is termed under the Act liquid assets exceeds \$1,000 for a single man or \$2,000 for a married man. I did make the suggestion, when this bill was being debated, that possibly there might be a change made in connection with these liquid assets in order to place them under the same principle which applies to the Old Age Assistance Act, whereby these liquid assets are assessed on an annuity basis, and the income arising from the annuity would be deducted from the monthly allowance.

I wondered whether any representations along that line, or any considerations had been given by the Legion to that particular point, and whether you had any suggestions as to how greater recognition might be given those who by their forethought and thrift had already saved up a little pension and retirement annuity. Could you elaborate on what you thought should be done in order to implement that point?

Dean J. O. ANDERSON: Thank you, General Pearkes. I would say offhand that you have a very handy yardstick in the \$50 allowed in casual earnings.

Q. Does that mean that you would allow a person to have an income from bonds up to \$50 per month?—A. Yes.

Q. Is that the recommendation?—A. I would hardly put it in the class of a recommendation. My immediate thought suggests that you have a handy yard-stick to use and one of course which has been applied in the case of casual earnings.

The CHAIRMAN: Now, Mr. Quelch.