

Is Dr. Crawford going to deal with Item 30 now? I have some questions to ask under that item.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I would prefer to deal with Item 15 first. This item of \$2,650,000 is for various allowances. In the main these allowances are treatment allowances. This, principally, is an allowance to pay a disability pensioner a sum which brings his disability pension payment up to 100 per cent for the period during which he is in hospital. In other words, if a man is 50 per cent disabled and receives a 50 per cent pension we say that while he is undergoing treatment for that he is in fact 100 per cent disabled and we pay him a treatment allowance—the difference between his pension and a 100 per cent pension, less a few dollars.

Mr. O'KEEFE: Under Item 15, which I notice has to do with the Veterans' Land Act—

Mr. CRAWFORD: That will be dealt with by Mr. Pawley under Item 15. I am interested in Item 15 only to the extent of the \$2,650,000; it is subvote 55 in Item 15.

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any further questions under Item 15 for Dr. Crawford?

Mr. GROOS: Am I right in my interpretation that this is largely for giving a 100 per cent pension to people who are in hospital for treatment relating to a partial disability while they are being treated for that? The figure seems to be reducing every year. How do you explain that?

Mr. CRAWFORD: The number of pensioners is reducing every year, Mr. Groos. However, the \$2,650,000 is not entirely made up of this allowance. Another item in this is a special treatment allowance which we pay to paraplaegics who are in receipt of attendant's allowance from the pension commission. When they go to hospital the attendant's allowance ceases. We feel that they still have to retain contact with the person they have hired as an attendant, and we pay them an allowance for two months after they have been admitted to hospital to enable them either to continue the association or to bring it to a tidy close.

The item also covers a comforts' allowance which we pay to needy veterans in hospital at the rate of about \$10 a month.

Mr. GROOS: It is just a reduction in the number of veterans that leads you to forecast this general reduction?

Mr. CRAWFORD: That is right.

Mr. HARLEY: Does this include the allowances which used to be paid to students going through university—

Mr. CRAWFORD: Not in my particular vote for allowances; this would be a welfare rehabilitation allowance.

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any further questions, gentlemen, that you would care to put to Dr. Crawford?

Let us turn to page 508, Item 30:

TREATMENT SERVICES

Vote 30—Operation and maintenance including authority, notwithstanding the Financial Administration Act, to spend revenue received during the year for hospital, prosthetic and related services

Treatment services—operation of hospitals and administration including authority, notwithstanding the Financial Administration Act, to spend revenue received during the year for hospital and related services (formerly Vote 15)