

The Address—Mr. Fleming

to try to get enough to buy a suit of clothes at today's prices it will not be given to you. This man said that he thought he would let this money accumulate against the time when he might be going out. It must be remembered that these men go into and come out of these institutions from time to time; they may go in for the winter and come out for a few months in the summer. When he tried to collect the \$8 per month for the time he had been in he could not get it, and was unable to get his suit of clothes. Perhaps I had better read one paragraph from his letter, where he states:

With further reference to veterans allowance it happened that during the summer months while I was receiving \$40.41 veterans allowance I was forced to enter the city hospital, Sydney, N.S. for the period of ten days from July 14 to July 24, 1951. As it happened I received war veterans allowance in full during that period but since the department has determined that I was not entitled to allowance and have been making deductions from my allowance monthly and apparently will continue until they have made up every cent that they paid me for this period.

From reading that I assume that during the short time he was in hospital he received the full amount of war veterans allowance, but when the department found that out they concluded that he was not entitled to the allowance for the period he was confined to the hospital. That is even more far-fetched than I thought it was at first. If he was at home his expenses would not be as great as they were while he was in the city hospital. While in the hospital he would have to pay the doctor, the ward rate and, if very ill, the nurse. I think the department should take a look at that particular angle.

Most of these men are quite old; if they leave the institution during the summer months they may be many miles away from any departmental hospital. They may have a sudden seizure of some kind and have to be rushed to hospital. Instead of cutting off the allowance while they are under additional expenses, some arrangement should be made so that at least the allowance would be paid during the time they were in an institution under emergency circumstances.

As I said when I began, Mr. Speaker, I am not raising these questions purely as matters of criticism because no small group of men who sit down to draft or amend an act can know everything about it or be conversant with all the possibilities that may exist. They may be small points, but they are points of irritation. I merely rose at this time to do what I have been doing for a long time, point out the defects in the legislation as I see them so that those who may rewrite the act or prepare amendments to it may be able to

introduce something to rectify the sections that I say are wrong and require clarification.

I am not complaining about a lot of things that perhaps I could complain about. I felt I should stick to the War Veterans Allowance Act at this time and be as relevant as possible to the amendment to the amendment moved by the hon. member for Acadia. While some members say it is a want of confidence motion, I cannot see it as a vote of want of confidence. The hon. member merely says he regrets that the War Veterans Allowance Act was not taken care of at the same time the question of the basic pension was looked after. Together with him I also regret that, and I also realize that if a proper job is going to be done in revising the act it will take a little time. I suggest that the parliamentary assistant look at *Hansard* and examine the sections that I think require consideration and clarification. I know there is no use our trying to push the government to do it, because they are too heavy. They are on the other team, and it is the winning team so far; but when they are ready to do so I suggest that consideration should be given to the points I have mentioned.

Mr. Donald M. Fleming (Eglinton): Mr. Speaker, the house is engaged in debate on the amendment introduced by the hon. member for Acadia (Mr. Quelch) in the following words:

Furthermore we regret that Your Excellency's advisers have failed to compensate the recipients of war veterans allowance for the increase in the cost of living by an appropriate increase in the amount of the allowance.

I intend to support that amendment with all my heart. Last Friday the house welcomed the announcement of the Minister of Veterans Affairs (Mr. Lapointe) indicating it is the intention of the government at the present session to introduce legislation to amend the Pension Act with a view to increasing the basic rates of pension provided by that act. I am sure that measure will be welcomed in all parts of the house and the country; but the fact that the government has seen fit to introduce such a measure at the present session serves to underline and emphasize the fact that there is no shred of excuse left now for further delay in dealing with the problem presented by the cost of living in relation to the War Veterans Allowance Act.

The need having been recognized by the government of dealing immediately with the Pension Act to remedy its inadequacies, then certainly no longer can any excuse be offered by the government for delay and postponement in dealing with the equal needs of those who are entitled under the War Veterans