

specting veterans pensions and the Woods committee recommendations. This white paper is being given high priority and we expect later on this session to be able to refer both the white paper and the Woods committee report to the House of Commons committee.

To date the White Paper has not been presented. No doubt when the White Paper is presented it will set forth what the Government is going to do about the recommendation in the Woods Report before the Committee on Veterans Affairs can consider the report and make any recommendations to the minister. Yet the minister said in September 1968 that the report would be referred to the committee as quickly as possible, that they would act on the recommendations of the committee as soon as he received it.

It is strange that on Thursday last the minister placed a motion on the Order Paper in the other house to refer the report to the Committee on Veterans Affairs. Honourable senators may wonder why that happened on Thursday last. The answer is very simple. There was to be a debate on veterans affairs on Friday, June 20.

I have in my hand the *Routine Proceedings and Orders of the Day* from the other place, and under Item 93, June 23, 1969, there is the following proposed resolution:

That the report of the committee appointed September 8, 1965, to survey the organization and work of the Canadian Pension Commission, tabled on March 26, 1968, be referred to the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs.

That resolution was in the name of the Minister of Veterans Affairs.

So, in the sixteenth month after the report was presented, and in the last few days of the session, when practically nothing could be done, the matter is to be referred to the Committee on Veterans Affairs.

I would point out what the waste of valuable time meant to the families of the several thousand veterans who have died in that period, and to the veterans from Hong Kong. I have here a number of briefs of which I believe every senator has received copies.

There is a brief from the War Pensioners of Canada, Inc.; a brief from The Sir Arthur Pearson Association of War Blinded; a submission by The War Amputations of Canada; a brief by the National Veterans Organizations of Canada; a brief by the Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada.

In addition to these various briefs, honourable senators also received a number of let-

ters. I have in my hand a letter from Padre Sidney E. Lambert, President of The War Amputations of Canada. He is a man well known to all Canadian veterans.

**Hon. Mr. Martin:** Hear, hear.

**Hon. Mr. White:** The letter is dated April 28, 1969 and is written on the letter paper of The War Amputations of Canada. I would like to read the first three paragraphs:

I have been the President of the War Amputations of Canada for nearly fifty years—and during that time I have seen many tragic blunders in the handling of the pension problems of Canada's War Disabled and the widows of those who died.

In my memory, though, I cannot recall a situation the parallel of that which is occurring right today, in regard to the Woods Report on Pensions.

The simple fact is that Canada's veterans are being deprived of an opportunity to appear before the Veterans Affairs Committee.

Having referred to other matters, Padre Lambert closes this letter:

As you will see—the Brief was prepared for the Parliamentary Committee but we have no alternative now. We must send it to all Members of Parliament and to the Honourable Senators of Canada.

Honourable senators also received a letter from an association known as the War Pensioners of Canada, Inc., signed by M. W. Campbell, President. One paragraph reads as follows:

Apparently this opportunity is being denied to us. This situation is even more serious now, in that the Chairman of the Canadian Pension Commission has already made an appearance before the Committee to deal with part of the Woods Report. This was on April 17th last, during which he presented a report purporting to show that a number of the Woods recommendations have already been implemented. The veterans organizations cannot accept much of his explanation in this regard.

There was another long letter from the Canadian Corps Association, much along the lines of the letter written by Padre Lambert and in which they say they agree and support the comments made in his letter.