

War Veterans' Allowance Act

climate for their health would not be large; it would be under the control of the department. I should like the minister to say whether he is still as favourable to this idea as he was when he was in the opposition of letting a person draw the allowance who gets a certificate or satisfies the officials that his health requires him to stay in some climate other than Canada, in a dry atmosphere, for instance. Perhaps it may be necessary because of his health; he may have tuberculosis or something of that sort. From the repeated statements of the minister's colleagues when he was in opposition I certainly was under the impression that they were very favourable to this idea. I should like to know whether they are still as favourable and if the only reason why they have not put it in this bill now is that they have not had time to do so?

Mr. Brooks: Mr. Chairman, I can speak for myself. The hon. member is certainly drawing on his imagination. I do not recall ever having said that I was strongly in favour of the war veterans allowance recipient going to any other country and staying there for a period for his health. I do not recall that.

Mr. Tucker: I said the minister's colleagues. I would like to read this to the minister to remind him of the sort of statements I had in mind. I take it that his colleague, the Minister of Public Works, when he spoke on this matter in the house was one of the spokesmen for the Progressive Conservatives on behalf of the veterans. His colleague, the present house leader, now Minister of Public Works, when speaking in this house on July 11, 1956 said this, as reported at page 5867 of *Hansard*:

There is another problem concerning war veterans allowance recipients which should be met. Most of these men are getting up in years and their health breaks down. In some cases they have to go to the southern states or to Mexico, some warmer climate, in order to stay alive, and when they do that they lose the war veterans allowance. It is only paid as long as they reside in Canada. There is provision for a short absence from Canada but if they change their residence to some country other than Canada then they lose the allowance. We have always been told that it is too hard for the department to figure out any way in which special provision could be made to meet these cases where the man's health has broken down as distinct from cases where he decides to move away for reasons other than health. I submit that this problem should have been met during the present session. Furthermore, I see no reason why the allowance should not be paid to a veteran who goes to live in another part of the commonwealth, whether or not he goes for health reasons. The same ruling should not apply in those cases as is used where veterans go to foreign lands.

I certainly took it that the present house leader was one of the spokesmen for his party on veterans affairs, just the same as the present Minister of Veterans Affairs

[Mr. Tucker.]

was, and what I want to know is this: is the minister now of the same view as his present colleague was in July, 1956, because if he is of the same view then I suppose the only reason that they could not bring this change about since they have been in office was lack of time? I think that must be the reason; they did not have time to do it if they are still of the view that this should be done. So I should like to know if their party is still of the same view as expounded by the present house leader when he was a spokesman on behalf of the Progressive Conservative party?

Mr. Herridge: Before the minister replies may I say this. I must support the hon. member for Rosthern on this occasion because I happen to know that the Minister of Public Works was making representations with knowledge of the same case that I brought to the house repeatedly. The hon. member was the member for Vancouver-Quadra at that time and he and I discussed this matter on a number of occasions, and he was making those representations in support of the same tragic case that I mentioned on two occasions while the resolution and the bill have been under discussion. I do hope that serious consideration is given to the wishes of the present Minister of Public Works and others who made those representations.

Mr. Brooks: I can only say, Mr. Chairman, that considering the fact that there has been only one case since 1954 it would not seem to me that there is very great demand for legislation to amend that provision. However, I should be very glad indeed to look further into this matter. As I said before, we shall give it consideration. I might say that I am not assuming responsibility for everything that my colleagues said, any more than the hon. member for Rosthern would assume responsibility for what his colleagues said. It would be a ridiculous situation for both of us.

Clause agreed to.

Clause 6 agreed to.

On clause 7—*Canadian veterans of world war I or world war II.*

Mr. Fraser: If an application is made by the middle of this month when would payment start on that application?

Mr. Brooks: In answer to the hon. member, it would take some time to review the case, possibly five or six weeks, but the payment would be from the date of the application. There will be a great number of applicants and I would advise those who are applying