

ment, but this whole thing should go to a committee. The resolution should be considered most carefully. It covers almost everybody—the man who enlisted in the last war, the man who enlisted in this war, the men in the different branches of the new defence services and those who may be out of the country. If a man is injured, if he wants to go to a university or if there are other things he wants to know, in many cases he will have to run down to Ottawa. I know of soldiers who have wasted a lot of money coming down here on one or two little matters which they should have been able to have fixed up at home. They wasted money on their train fare, they could not get in an hotel and when they got here they could not find out anything about what they wanted to know.

I understand there is not to be a general veterans committee this session. Veterans affairs and the care of their estates are going to be most important matters in the next twelve months, and I submit that this resolution should go to some committee made up of veterans where these different things could be considered. This is a matter in which there should be no partisanship. If the minister will agree to sending this to a select committee he will make some progress and we will be able to get on with other bills.

The other place is going to take a holiday because there is no work. There is no use taking holidays when there is work to be done. Some of those who are working today no doubt will run away and take a holiday and come back to work another day. This is a matter which a committee of this house should consider. We should be able to have the advice of the officers in the various military districts, the soldiers' organizations, the hospital officials, and so on. Once the facts are laid before us the bill will go through the house in no time at all.

Hon. members should recall the way the veterans legislation was handled last session. It is with deep humility that I speak on this subject because I am not a soldier. I do think that we should not go over the heads of the soldiers' organizations and pass this resolution on the eleventh day of the session. I would like to see the other government bills go through quickly and if the minister will consider between now and Monday the setting up of a small committee I think it will bring results.

Mr. HACKETT: Will the minister define the meaning of the words "service estates"? Is that something distinct from the total estate of the demised soldier?

[Mr. Church.]

Mr. CLAXTON: Yes, I thought I made that clear yesterday. It is defined by the regulations as meaning:

... that part of his personal estate which consists of balance of pay and allowances and other emoluments emanating from the crown, which at date of death are due or otherwise payable and effects issued by the crown, which under regulations he is permitted to retain, and all personal belongings found on the deceased and in camp, quarters or otherwise in the care or custody of the service authorities, including cash on hand and personal articles and effects.

This property is disposed of by handing it over to the executor, if the soldier has made a will and appointed an executor, or to the legatee if the soldier has made a will and has no executor, or to the administrator if one has been appointed by the courts. In other words this is simply machinery whereby the property is passed on to the next of kin or the heir or executor of the soldier. This only applies in respect of those who are in the active forces. Soldiers who have ceased to be in the active forces and are therefore ex-soldiers and who are receiving treatment from the Department of Veterans Affairs are dealt with by that department.

Mr. PROBE: A good deal of this debate could have been avoided I think had the minister made a full explanation of what was intended by the bill to follow the resolution. Without having seen the bill, and having heard only the minister's explanation, it looks to me as if his purpose in the first section of the resolution, which provides for the appointment of three associate deputy ministers, is to synchronize and unify the three branches of the service. To the extent that that is done I think the members of the house are in agreement.

With respect to the administration of service estates, I would ask the minister to give some indication whether the purpose is to save expenses to the estate, and whether, should accounts be presented against the estate during the course of its administration, the department will see to it that counterclaims by the estate against those presenting claims will not be jeopardized.

With respect to the establishment of the defence research board, one phase I think deserves commendation, and that is the establishment of scholarships and the making of grants in aid. I should like the minister to indicate to the committee whether these scholarships will be issued generally across the dominion or whether military strings will be attached to them; that is, will they be held for military personnel, or be open to the general public provided they follow a certain line of research?