important matters, while also permitting an actual reduction in the overall number of Commissioners required to handle the case work.

The Recommendations (Nos. 20, 21 and 22) of the Woods Committee relating to Leave to Reopen will, if adopted, result in a more simplified and less time-consuming procedure. These recommendations propose that Leave to Reopen not be required for a new condition; that it be waived for applications based on (i) presumption, and (ii) entitlement—Regular Force, and that Leave to Reopen may be granted on the authority of one Commissioner instead of three, as presently required.

The function of the proposed Pension Review Board is seen as basically one of review involving the use of existing files and records. There would normally be no requirement for personal presentation by the advocate as the applicant would have been extended the full advantages of due process, including a personal hearing and presentation on his behalf by his advocate at the Entitlement Board stage.

This Review Board would be superimposed upon the existing facilities of the Canadian Pension Commission less the establishment of five Commissioner positions and their support staff.

Pension applicants would not normally appear before the Board. Appearances would be permitted where a decision hinges on a question of fact involving evidence of the applicant, and where his credibility would be the influencing factor. An appearance by the applicant would not be required where:

(*a*) The Board is in doubt regarding evidence which could be resolved by further investigation and report of the representatives of the Canadian Pension Commission or the veterans' Advocate;

(*b*) The Board is in doubt regarding medical opinions which might be resolved by further medical reports.

The Advocate will make a written submission on the applicant's behalf. The pension applicant may be represented by his advocate before the Board, where necessary."

Your Committee agrees that the above proposal would provide a more independent appellate body than the restructured Commission. Adjudication by such a body would also create a better impression in the minds of the veteran population that justice has been done. For these reasons your Committee recommends that the proposal for the establishment of a Pension Review Board be implemented with the following modifications:

(1) That an applicant's representative has the right of audience before the Board in all applications.

(2) That the applicant does not have the right to appear personally before the Board. In cases in which the Board considers that further evidence from the applicant would be helpful that provision be made for the Board to refer the application to an Entitlement Hearing for the purpose of taking the additional evidence from the applicant.

(3) That the Pension Review Board sit at Ottawa only.

(4) That appointments to the Review Board be for a term of five years and may be renewed.