

his control made it impossible for him to be here today and to express the thanks of our organization for the consideration that we have always received from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The brief as presented by Colonel Baker is supported by resolutions from our national convention and we hope that you will give it every consideration. Thank you.

Colonel BAKER: Captain Woodcock, have you a word on behalf of the war blinded?

Captain F. WOODCOCK (President, Sir Arthur Pearson Association of War Blinded in Canada): Mr. Chairman, the war blind are naturally unanimous in endorsing our present brief, but we do feel very strongly towards some form of hospitalization and I say that because I cannot prove to this group here, Mr. Chairman, nor is there a doctor present who could prove to me or any of us that some of our disabilities not pensionable, not entitled to treatment, are actually related to our disabilities.

I am thinking in terms of perhaps an accident which we would consider caused because a man was blind. I cannot say to you gentlemen that it was because of his blindness because who knows it might have been a sighted man who would have the same accident. Nor can I express to this group just what another man's blindness means to him. I cannot tell any other totally blinded person present just what mental emotions, what nervous strains he goes through in his daily routine in keeping tuned into everything around him to carry on the day's activities. I cannot tell him nor can he tell me what effect that nervous strain is going to have on his general physical make-up.

It is rather an ambiguous position I am trying to paint to you, but to all our minds there are a number of consequential disabilities incurred by our pensionable disabilities which we feel that the veterans should be given the benefit of the doubt on by the Department of Veterans Affairs. All too often not only in our group but in other seriously disabled groups these consequential injuries crop up and it is a battle to get someone to recognize the fact.

In the meantime the chap is not only undergoing the physical discomfort but also the keen emotional upset perhaps of lying in hospital and having a bill thrust under his nose once a week and seeing his meagre savings dwindling rapidly away to the point where he could then apply under class 5-A treatment and only when his savings are down to such a point that there is not even two months' hospitalization left.

We also see that same war veterans allowance case—and mind you, I think it is a comparable condition that a war veterans allowance married man, can have hospitalization and still retain reasonable assets—I think the figure is somewhere around \$1,760. I am not too sure just where the allowance of a 100 per cent pensioner has to be reduced to before he can receive the same hospitalization. I think I am right in saying it is somewhere between \$300 and \$500.

That is all I have to say on hospitalization, Mr. Chairman.

Colonel BAKER: Has Mr. Dies anything?

Mr. W. C. DIES (Sir Arthur Pearson Association of War Blinded in Canada): Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I do not know that I can add a great deal to this brief or to what Captain Woodcock has pointed out, but I would say that I would like to see a war veteran's case taken care of but it should be pointed out that while the 40 per cent pensioner may go on war veterans' allowance because of his inability to work or unemployment and is entitled to hospitalization, the 100 per cent for whom this whole scheme was set up in the early days does not qualify unless it is for the disability which he carries.