

*Supply—Veteran's Affairs*

of the standing committee on veterans affairs to Europe between June 26 and July 17 of 1966. This was the first time a standing committee on veterans affairs from Canada visited Europe for the purposes mentioned. In addition to visiting all the memorials, laying wreaths at these memorials and visiting the various battle fields, the members of the committee had some very interesting and important visits. In France we were paid a visit by the officials of the World Veterans Federation and heard a brief on the objectives and work of this organization. Later, we heard a brief presented by the regional administrator of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission at the headquarters of that organization in Paris. At this time we were informed of the work of the commission, some of which is done under difficult circumstances, and the improvements they intend to make in the various cemeteries and particularly around the war memorial at Vimy. Then, naturally, we attended the Canadian, Commonwealth and allied ceremonies marking the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of the Somme. We also had the opportunity to visit and discuss matters with the officials of the government of Italy, the government of France, and also with representatives of the appropriate government departments of Great Britain.

During these visits we were well informed of the practices and procedures followed by these other organizations. This information will be very helpful in the drafting of legislation in the days ahead which will affect the veterans and their dependents. In Holland, we had an opportunity to hear the representations of certain Canadian veterans who are resident there. The same thing happened in France and Italy. In London we heard from representatives of Canadian veterans in Great Britain. We visited the British Commonwealth ex-Services League Convention and had a briefing on their work throughout the world. We visited the headquarters of the British Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance for a briefing on the British war pensions system and allowances.

● (9:50 p.m.)

In view of the money Canada has contributed, which I understand is about \$500,000 a year—this is our quota to the British Commonwealth War Graves Commission—I am quite sure that our visit was welcomed by the commission, by the governments from which we heard representations and by the Canadian veterans in these various countries.

I am sure the visits were well worth while and will be of value to the members of this house and the standing committee on veterans affairs when dealing with veterans' legislation in the years ahead.

I trust that in the near future the standing committee on veterans affairs will meet and will have the opportunity to listen to representations from the Royal Canadian Legion, other veterans organizations and that gallant little body, the War Pension Widows Association, which has appeared before the committee throughout the years. I hope that the result of our listening to their representations and the mellowing of the government's heart—I know the minister's heart is in the right place—will be that in the near future we will have amendments to the Canada Pension Act and the War Veterans' Allowance Act which will give justice to our veterans in so far as their pensions and allowances are concerned.

**Mr. Bigg:** Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to know that the Woods report is being studied in detail. It was a most excellent report. I have a suggestion to make which I think will help the minister and satisfy everybody concerned.

**Mr. Teillet:** Mr. Chairman, I wonder whether I might interrupt the hon. gentleman at this moment just to clarify a point. If I understood correctly, I believe the hon. member for Kootenay West said that I had the report on hand. I am expecting it momentarily; I do not yet have it on hand. I think that should be clearly understood. I apologize to the hon. member for interrupting him.

**Mr. Herridge:** Mr. Chairman, would the hon. member mind if I apologized to the minister? I misheard the minister. It was quite unintentional on my part.

**Mr. Bigg:** I know that the minister has the main body of the Woods report. At least, that is my understanding. Is that correct?

**Mr. Teillet:** Yes, the evidence.

**Mr. Bigg:** The Woods report may have been delayed, but I am more concerned about the details of the program and the kind of justice we give to our veterans. I have a suggestion which I think may help the minister. I suggest that we make the payments to the veterans retroactive and that they be reasonable in accordance with what seems to be reasonable in other areas of our Canadian life. I suggest that we raise the veterans