

Canadian Forces Act

some other province, would that constitute one of these days of permissible absence from the House of Commons?

I think the clause opens the door wide. I would not begin to set out the number of things that might occur to other people—and of course I do not mean hon. members who are now in the house. But these few matters have occurred to me at this time.

I doubt the wisdom of this modernization, as the associate minister has described it. Why not make some restriction? If it is for some course of training that is of major importance, then I think it would be perfectly satisfactory. If it permits a member of the house, who is also serving in the reserve forces, to absent himself for minor service duties, then I think it is unwise.

Clause agreed to.

On clause 19—*Special provisions respecting pensions.*

Mr. Pearkes: Will the minister make a statement on this part V?

Mr. Campney: A number of persons enrolled in the special force for 18 months' service. Some have now transferred, or re-enrolled in the regular force, and it is felt that such persons should be able to count their time in the special force for all purposes under the defence service pension. This would enable them to do so.

Mr. Pearkes: I think that is a wise provision. Does the service have to be continuous? Does the man concerned have to re-enlist in the regular forces immediately after his release from the Canadian forces special force?

Mr. Campney: No; there could be a hiatus.

Mr. Pearkes: Is any time limit set?

Mr. Campney: No, there is no time limit.

Clause agreed to.

On clause 5—*Widow's pension to be resumed.*

The Deputy Chairman: This clause was allowed to stand.

Mr. Campney: I have to pay a tribute to the discerning eye of the hon. member for Esquimalt-Saanich in that he established the possibility that some fortunate or unfortunate widow might marry and remarry a series of servicemen and accumulate a number of pensions. I have to modify slightly my admiration of him for bringing up this point because I find on looking into the matter that in parts I to IV of the Defence Services Pension Act the governor in council has authority to meet the situation to which he

[**Mr. Churchill.**]

refers. I should like to ask my colleague, the Minister of National Defence, to move an amendment which would make this clause conform to the parallel section in parts I to IV. The amendment I ask him to move reads as follows:

Strike out all the words in line 38 and substitute therefor the following:

"(1a) Subject to regulations made by the governor in council, where payment of any widow's pension under."

Strike out the word "shall" in line 41 and substitute therefor the word "may".

So that the subsection will now read:

Subject to regulations made by the governor in council, where payment of any widow's pension under this part has been discontinued by reason of her remarriage and she again becomes a widow, payment of that pension may, to the extent that she is otherwise entitled under this part to receive the same, be resumed.

Mr. Claxton: I move accordingly.

The Deputy Chairman: Shall the amendment carry?

Mr. Pearkes: This statement covers the point that I raised. I do not want to be accused of robbing the widows, but I had genuine concern for the servicemen. I had to think of the possibility that perhaps at some future date a female Bluebeard might have married an elderly general after an elderly general in order to pile up pension after pension. It was more than I could bear.

Mr. Knowles: Why the reference to a general?

Amendment agreed to.

Clause as amended agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill reported.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Applewhaite): When shall the bill be read a third time?

Mr. Knowles: Next sitting.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Applewhaite): Next sitting of the house.

VETERANS BENEFIT ACT

PROVISION OF VARIOUS BENEFITS TO MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES

Hon. Hugues Lapointe (Minister of Veterans Affairs) moved the second reading of Bill No. 101, respecting benefits for members of the Canadian forces.

Mr. Brooks: Will the minister make a further statement?

Mr. Lapointe: Mr. Speaker, in explaining the purpose of the proposed bill I should like to be permitted to review very briefly the action which has been taken by this