

the attention of the department. I was wondering what the departmental policy is with regard to counselling veterans as to their rights with respect to the assistance fund and also with regard to casual earnings.

Hon. Mr. LAPOINTE: May I answer this point?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes.

Hon. Mr. LAPOINTE: From my knowledge of the matter, the district office, under whom the administration has been decentralized for some years now, has made every recipient aware of his rights under the Act as it exists. Our welfare people keep in touch with these recipients, and they are advised of the possibility of having their allowance supplement through the assistance fund. In some cases, in fact—and this brings up a point which was mentioned by Mr. Thompson—there is no need for a further application or the application of a second means test, because when the recipient makes his application for war veterans allowance and his case is fully investigated, it is found out at that time from the information gathered that, not only does he qualify for war veterans allowance but that his case meets the formula under which the assistance fund is administered. He is granted the allowance, plus the supplement through the assistance fund, so to speak, through one procedure. But every one of these recipients is told by the officers of the department and by our welfare people of the possibility of qualifying for assistance under the fund or of the type of earnings which he can make through casual earnings and through section 4. So at this stage I do not believe that there can be any question of the recipients not being informed of the existence of the fund.

By Mr. Enfield:

Q. Mr. Chairman, I do not know whether this question has been indirectly answered, but can the Reverend Mr. Anderson say what the Legion's experience has been with the new regulations regarding casual earnings? Quite a change was made last year. I should be interested to know how you have found the department's attitude in respect to these casual earnings. While we are on that point, can the Legion say how many veterans who are fully employed are earning less than \$2,000 a year and hence would be affected by their recommendation and the increase in the permissive ceilings? Do they have any idea of the number of veterans who would be affected? I think that would be a nice point to know.

Dean J. O. ANDERSON: If I might just answer the first part first: certainly, from our experience, the new regulations on casual earnings have been very helpful indeed, have been very liberally applied and have met a real need. The same applies to section 4, although very few have, I think, qualified under section 4. We have no idea, nor have we any way of finding out how many would qualify, other than the people who apply to us for guidance or help in making their applications under the permissive ceiling. I imagine that the department would have a better idea of that than we have. We know only that the need does exist.

Q. You cannot say what proportion of applicants who are fully employed are turned down because of the permissive ceiling?—A. We do not know how many were turned down.

Mr. MACDOUGALL: We had a question by the hon. member for Kootenay West relative to the comment on page seven of the brief about war veterans allowances. Recipients of war veterans allowances might be desirous of going to the United States in the winter, where it is a little sunnier than in portions of Canada. I hope that that action might be taken, for those cases that are definitely in need of that type of sunshine treatment. Some investigation could be made, not only by the government but also, I think, for the protection of various branches of the Legion, or you might find rather widespread abuse.