

When we organized this association some 16 or 17 years ago—I might have been around 50 or 53 at that time—but my goodness, at 50 years of age I was a flapper! I do not see any logic in this part of it. Probably the government had something in mind and I believe they had, but it has probably been tabled and shelved.

I remember quite a few years ago when I first met Mr. Tucker—he worked for the late Right Hon. Mr. Mackenzie at that time—we openly discussed social security and national health. I am going back now 10 or 12 years. Mr. Tucker said it was tabled and shelved in the House of Commons and was ready to be brought out. However, we have not got it yet and I do not presume we will, and we women still have to pay our own hospital bills. I think there are many things this government could do if they wanted to. I was very disappointed to read in Hansard that the minister said there would be definitely nothing done at this session and the members of the council who are with me, and I suppose many widows throughout the country, are very disappointed too. Let us hope that the members do not stay away from Ottawa too long and that they will come back early in the fall to commence the session and that something will be accomplished before the year is out. We probably cannot accomplish anything at this session, but probably by next year we can look forward to really getting something done.

Are there any questions on this? I am trying to fill in my allotted time. I noticed, Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, that you took half an hour of our time this morning. We came into this room prepared to start at 11 o'clock. If you want to get through this morning, I will try to finish if you will bear with me.

Concerning the old age security, you can see by adding \$75 to \$300 that we would approximate the income of the old age pensioners, but there are quite a lot of complications attached to that, too.

Let me say first that when this old age pension scheme was brought in, in my organization I advised my widows not to accept it. We did have an official from Ottawa at one of our meetings, and I said: do not take the old age pension. You are war veteran's widows.

I would not say that we were actually forced to accept it, but they advised us very strongly and they said: You had better get in line and make application for the old age pension. So the widows got their \$40 as old age and only \$20 from the department. Here is their allowance cut in half. No, it is more than cut in half if she got \$50, as war veterans allowance.

Now you will see that when these people get the old age pension they usually get \$40 and \$20 from the Department of Veterans Affairs. But if she has a roomer or two in her house who can pay her a little more than the board says they can pay, then that is deducted from the war veterans allowance, so that she gets only \$10 under the war veterans allowance.

This is then an injustice, and it is only creating a lot of jobs for people to go out and investigate all these things and try to find out what it is all about.

On the other hand a widow may receive \$40 as old age pension and \$20 as war veterans allowance, and she may have a boarder and the boarder can pay her \$50 a month yet there is no deduction made.

But if she has a roomer, and he pays, let us say, \$6 a week, there is a certain amount of that room money which goes in as earnings which I think is an injustice.

If the widow is entitled to the war veterans allowance, she should have it as such.