

Is this not the case purely with the R.C.A.F., and consequently have you not had a number of complaints from people who argue that there was some discrimination in as far as R.C.A.F. personnel are concerned, and therefore they could not receive the full pension rate because their status could not be confirmed as permanent?

Mr. ARMSTRONG: Not to my knowledge. I do not know of any discrimination that applies to the R.C.A.F.

Mr. SMITH (*Calgary South*): I will take the matter up with you personally.

Mr. ARMSTRONG: I do not think there is.

Mr. CARTER: As a matter of interest, if we are coming to the end of this, I would just like to ask one question on vote 235, about how long these civil pensions have been at this figure.

The CHAIRMAN: \$2,457, vote 235, under Pensions and Other Benefits?

Mr. CARTER: Yes. How long have those very small pensions been at this figure?

Mr. ARMSTRONG: These are the individual pensions.

Mr. CARTER: How long have they been at that figure?

Mr. ARMSTRONG: They have been at that figure for a good many years, with a few exceptions. They were all reviewed, when provision was made for supplementing certain pensions. The pension for Mrs. Nixon was increased because the terms under which that pension was granted were such that she would qualify under the general legislation for an increase in her pension.

The other pensions are all in respect of disability. They have been reviewed also; but there has been no ground for increasing them, in that under the application of the legislation under which these pensions were calculated, it would not provide for an increase.

In other words, we have attempted to keep this in line with what would have happened had they in fact qualified for a pension under whatever legislation the calculation was made. If it was a Workmen's Compensation Act matter and if the person granted that pension would have got an increase since then, an increase would have been granted here. So these have all been reviewed from that point of view, and I think the only one that was increased was Mrs. Nixon's.

Mr. CARTER: The only one that was eligible under legislation for an increase would be Mrs. Nixon? Are you satisfied that the others do not need this pension, that they have other means of social income? Are they on some public relief of some kind?

Mr. ARMSTRONG: Frankly, I cannot answer that: I do not know myself. I think a good many of them would be eligible for old age pension. These have been in force for a long time.

Mr. CARTER: And they would get this, in addition to that?

Mr. ARMSTRONG: Yes.

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any further questions on item 237?

Mr. HELLYER: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the deputy minister could tell us if the defence services pension fund is actuarially sound; and, if it is not, if there is any estimation of the amount that would be required to put it so?

Mr. ARMSTRONG: There was an actuarial evaluation of the pension fund some two years ago. There is a deficit in the fund. I do not remember it offhand; but the amount is shown in the public accounts. It is credited in the account. It has not actually been made up; but the interest is paid on the full amount of the liability.

Mr. CARTER: The government pays the interest on the full amount of the liability?