

Mr. Hees: Mr. Chairman, until now, only students up to and including 17 years of age could be included in the program. We have now extended the age limit to 18.

Mr. Nunziata: Mr. Chairman, what happens in the case of a person who is in the middle of working on a university degree? Is the assistance cut off automatically at the time the person reaches 18 years of age, or is there any provision in the Act which would allow for some discretion to ensure that any assistance or compensation provided under the Children of War Dead (Education Assistance) Act would continue?

● (1730)

Mr. Hees: Yes, Mr. Chairman, common sense would prevail in every case. We cannot cut off a student's education half way through. In cases like that—and it is a good question—the education would be continued right to the end of the year. We are a Department with a heart.

Clause agreed to.

Clause 3 agreed to.

On Clause 4—*Time Limit*

Mr. Angus: Mr. Chairman, without having the original Act before me, it is difficult to know what will happen. If someone finishes high school, takes two years in the workforce and then applies to university and to DVA, he or she would be ineligible because the 15-month time period has elapsed. What about the situation where students have met the first requirement, that is, have gone from high school to university, have decided that they need some time off, have perhaps taken a year or two and then returned? Are there procedures in place to allow them to interrupt their training *per se* and be reinstated in terms of the DVA scholarship?

Mr. Hees: Mr. Chairman, I am advised that this is a consequential amendment only. I do not think the Hon. Member understands that.

Mr. Angus: The Minister is right. I do not understand what that means in the context of my question. Perhaps he could obtain some additional assistance from his official and give us a more lengthy explanation.

Mr. Hees: I am advised that the words "high school" always appeared in the original legislation. Now the words "vocational school" have been added to the qualifications.

Mr. Angus: Perhaps my question is more appropriate in terms of the over-all consequences of the Bill. I am looking for some assurance. We must keep in mind that in today's society many young people tend to take a break in their training. They decide to go out and obtain employment, perhaps because they are not comfortable with how they are doing in university or colleague. They obtain some work experience, have a better idea of where they want to head in terms of a career and return to school. I should like some assurance that under such circumstances the son or a daughter of a veteran who has started training, has broken it and has resumed it, will be

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eligible upon resumption for the scholarship provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Mr. Hees: The time allowed for a student to take a break in his or her education and then come back is 15 months. I quite agree with the Hon. Member that it is often very beneficial for students to take a break, go out in the real world, find out what it is all about and then come back to continue their education. They get a great deal more out of their education having learned what are the requirements of the real world. They are allowed to be out of school for 15 months and then come back.

I take it the Hon. Member feels that perhaps it should be a longer period of time than that. If that is so, we will have a look at it. At the present time it is 15 months; perhaps it could be extended to a longer period. I assure him that we will have a look at it.

Mr. Angus: I am assuming that the answer which the Minister gave is in reference to other aspects of the Bill, because the clause before us is very specific and says "before entering an educational institution".

Mr. Hees: The Hon. Member has raised a very good point, something which has not been considered before. I assure him that we will take note of what he has said and take it under advisement. Perhaps he has made a very good suggestion.

Mr. Nunziata: Mr. Chairman, I have a general question about the Children of War Dead (Education Assistance) Act. I suspect from the title of the Act that the purpose of the legislation is to assist the children of those servicemen and women who are killed in times of war. Is it restricted to the children of those who are killed during the time of war, or would the Act apply to the child or children of servicemen and women killed on duty today?

Mr. Hees: Yes, Mr. Chairman, this applies to the children of servicemen who are killed on duty at the present time.

Mr. Nunziata: Perhaps the Minister might consider at some point retitling this particular piece of legislation, because the title of the Act suggests that it is just for the children of the war dead. We are not in a state of war with any nation at this particular point of time. When the Minister has little on his plate, he might consider an amendment to change the name of the Act.

Mr. Hees: I think the Hon. Member has made a very good suggestion. Although there are very few times when this Minister finds that he has not much on his plate, he will certainly make a point of giving it very serious consideration. It is a good idea to bring the title of this Act up to date.

Mr. Gauthier: Mr. Chairman, I just want to pursue the hiatus or the period of time which renders one ineligible for future consideration under this particular clause. The English text reads: