

Your Committee also spent considerable time reviewing the appeal procedures suggested on the one hand by the White Paper and on the other hand by the Veterans' Associations, which were essentially modifications and extensions of the Woods recommendations. We were very much concerned about the principle of an independent review board being stacked on top of an independent Pension Commission. This appeared to us to raise a fundamental question of public administration, but the representations by the Veterans' Associations were strong, persistent and undeviating on this point. In the circumstances, we are recommending that the procedure essentially recommended by the Veterans' Associations in the final hearings in April of this year should be adopted with some modification. The particulars of your Committee's recommendations are contained in Recommendation 14.

Your Committee has reservations, however, concerning the observations of the Veterans' Associations on the ability of the Canadian Pension Commission to delegate responsibility to field staff and also on the suggestion that a single Commissioner should be able to make decisions. In our opinion, decisions should be signed by more than one Commissioner in the interests of uniformity of administration.

Without delegation to field staff and to one Commissioner, your Committee doubts if 12 Commissioners would be able to cope with the workload. It considers that, during the first two or three years of the operation of the Pension Review Board, if there is no delegation as proposed, it may be necessary to appoint additional *ad hoc* Commissioners and supporting staff.

It is impossible at this time to foresee the operations of the Pension Review Board with any degree of certainty or to forecast with any accuracy the number of claims which will come before the Board and the Commission for adjudication in the future. Your Committee therefore suggests that the organization, establishment and procedure of both the Review Board and the Commission be reviewed after five years. For these reasons your Committee considers that appointment of Commissioners for a specific term is preferable to a life appointment.

Recommendation is made (Woods Recommendation 106) to pay pension to widows of pensioners who were being paid at rates of 48% or less.

Finally, we were concerned with the principles behind the suggestion for automatic age increases. These were considered at some length, but the Committee was unable to accept the recommendations of the Veterans' Associations in this area.

In the section that follows we comment on the Woods Committee Resolutions in the order in which they are presented.

Your Committee has prepared its Report in two parts.

Part I contains the Woods Committee Recommendations as modified in some cases by the White Paper and in other cases by the proposals made by the National Veterans Organizations of Canada which your Committee recommends for implementation.

Part II contains the Woods Committee Recommendations which your Committee does not recommend for implementation.