

criticising one way or the other on that point, but I think it is important we do realize what we are doing, because, as the chairman knows very well, there will be very bitter criticism from a certain source when it is found we are debarring a certain organization.

The CHAIRMAN: I think I am right in saying that the position of the individual to whom you refer is no different under this than it was before; and the fact is that under this, organizations herein mentioned have a statutory approach, whereas before, it was by grace of the department.

Mr. BURNS: I think this amendment that you have before you does not really change the condition of affairs as regards who shall have access to the files, because you will see that it says "such medical advisers and other organizations", and then it expands on that, "including so and so". There is no real change. We are just writing out those that have, as you might say, special recognition, and this expanding or explanatory clause was inserted sometime ago, I think, at the request of the Canadian Legion, to spell out in full their special interest in the matter.

Mr. QUELCH: I am not objecting, but, as you point out, it does give you the discretion to include others.

The CHAIRMAN: Shall the clause as amended carry?

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN: Shall the title carry?

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN: Shall the bill carry?

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN: Shall I report the bill?

Agreed.

The CHAIRMAN: Now, we agreed that the next matter to be considered would be bill 286, a bill to amend the Veterans Business and Professional Loans Act. As you know, this Act is administered by the Department of Finance, and we have here with us one of the gentlemen who has been charged with the responsibility with respect to it, and if questions arise, I will, with your permission, ask Mr. McRae to answer them.

Mr. GOODE: Could we have a general statement? Perhaps it would not take five minutes, and it may save a lot of questions.

The CHAIRMAN: That would be a very proper procedure. The bill is very short, and there are three explanatory notes concerned with it. Will you say a word of explanation, General Burns?

Mr. BURNS: Mr. Chairman, the essential purpose of amending this Act was to extend it to bring it in line with other Acts of the Veterans Charter, particularly the War Service Grants Act in paragraph 2. If it were not for the extension proposed, the power to make loans would expire next January. When the bill was being considered it was found that there was a certain ambiguity as to what was required before a veteran who had had some benefits under the Veterans Land Act, would be eligible for this loan, and in order to make the principle clear, and to facilitate establishing a quite small number of veterans—

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: Mr. Chairman, in order to save time, I move the adoption of the bill.

Mr. HERRIDGE: Mr. Chairman, I think Mr. Cruickshank is being premature.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Cruickshank has moved—we agreed to go through the bill clause by clause, and we are on clause 1. I think, Mr. Cruickshank,