

The Address—Mr. McLure

after the war and was not taken into consideration in computing their retirement allowance. Several of these men live quite close to me and I know that they have to go out and beg for jobs so that they can maintain their families. This is another matter that deserves consideration.

I am not going to speak at length about the war veterans because this matter has been threshed out in this house at great length. I agree with all that has been done on behalf of the war pensioners, but I think it would have come with better grace if the government had taken action at the early part of this session or even last year when demands were made by the opposition. They are now being forced to take action and they cannot expect to get much credit from those they have befriended after the demands made by His Majesty's loyal opposition and the other groups on this side of the house.

Consideration should be given to increasing the war veterans allowances. Some people may consider that they can tell when a man is able to work, but in my opinion only the individual himself can do that. I have brought many cases to the attention of the government and I think of one case in particular where I made a plea on behalf of a man who was not able to work. The department claimed that he was employable and the only argument I could put forward was to get him a job which the doctors would agree he could do and we would see that he did it. But the job never came forth and yet they decided he was employable. That is a difficulty in many cases, to decide who is employable and who is not.

Like other hon. members, from time to time I have been asking the government for certain things for my constituency. For the last two years the answer has been that it was impossible to do these things because the money was needed for national defence. We all know that money is needed for national defence, but the improvement of transportation facilities, the building of highways, the betterment of harbours and such things are all part of national defence.

According to the speech from the throne the government has changed its attitude this year because they are going ahead with things like the seaway project. I was glad to see that, because it indicates that the government is going to take on things besides national defence. For a few minutes I should like to direct the attention of the government to some of the projects that have been promised to my constituency and my province. The government has information in connection with these and I submit that they deserve consideration.

First I should like to mention a need for improvement in our transportation facilities. Transportation is a great problem for our province. We now have a ferry operating from Borden to Tormentine where two steamers are giving satisfaction. However they are not able to take care of the traffic to and from Prince Edward Island. Another ferry company, the Northumberland Ferries Limited, operates from Wood Island to Caribou. During the strike a year and a half ago this ferry provided the only transportation link with the mainland, outside of that provided by the airline. Transportation by air is not to be compared with transportation by steamer.

This Wood Island-Caribou ferry has developed considerable business and it provides an essential service to the southern and eastern parts of the island, to the fishermen and to the tourist trade. However, it cannot take care of more than 50 per cent of the traffic that is offered. The result is that tourists from Nova Scotia on their way to Prince Edward Island have sometimes had to wait a day or a day and a half before they could get transportation. The two steamers, the *Charles A. Dunning* and the *Prince Nova*, have given excellent service but they are not large enough. As I say, the government has indicated that it is going to undertake projects like the seaway and the Canso project and the building of a large steamer to provide service to Newfoundland, all of which projects are necessary. But the one connecting Prince Edward Island with the mainland should have the endorsement of the government and should receive all possible federal aid. The demands that are made on the government today should be looked into very carefully indeed. I might go on and say a great deal more about the ferry service.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. member has exceeded his time. He may continue with unanimous consent.

Mr. McLure: I thought I had five minutes more.

Mr. Weir: You had twenty-five minutes the other night.

Some hon. Members: Go ahead.

Mr. McLure: That is all I will say about transportation. I want to mention the unfulfilled promise of a post office building. Then there is another unfulfilled promise. Both the provincial and federal governments promised faithfully to provide proper harbour communications and improvements and to build a marine railway slip. These were hot issues during the campaigns of 1945 and 1949, and