

tions from D.V.A. and local instructions from the employment service office—but they have been of great assistance to veterans. However, I find there is a tendency on the part of the Unemployment Insurance Commission to say that the work of those men is getting less and less not so important, and that they want them to do more Unemployment Insurance Commission work. A great deal of their time is being consumed entirely in that work.

Now, Mr. Watts, in view of the amendments proposed in this bill, would you say it would be advisable for those veterans officers to be continued or their facilities used to the full extent, in view of the situation mentioned by Mr. Green?—A. I would definitely presume, regardless of how it is done, that the position of the older veterans as was more or less indicated a few moments ago would be made no more difficult as a result of this legislation, and that whatever facilities were necessary to accommodate them—whether it be under the Unemployment Insurance Commission or the Department of Veterans Affairs—would be available.

Q. My point is this. That official is there and he is called a veterans officer. He is actually an employee of the Unemployment Insurance Commission and his particular work, up until eighteen months or a year ago was dealing with veterans and handling war veterans allowances, pensions, and assisting them generally. Do you not think that the older veterans problem would be better understood if the veteran was dealing with those veterans officers rather than say an official of the Unemployment Insurance Commission who does not have the knowledge of veterans affairs and is not possibly as interested in veterans affairs?—A. Yes, I certainly would.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Herridge, do you not think it sufficient if Mr. Watts insists, as he has every right to do, that in carrying out the administrative processes adequate facilities should be provided to meet the situation. I do not think that he would want to direct the Department of Veterans Affairs as to how they should do the job which they have to do but he will try to see that they do it. Whether it is done by changing the status of personnel employed by the Department of Labour or supplementing them does not matter—so long as he makes the point. I suggest that you are inviting him to suggest administrative processes—something which he would not want to do.

Mr. HERRIDGE: I am asking the witness questions and I do not want them answered by the chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: I am not going to answer but Mr. Watts is entitled as is any other witness, to the protection of the chair?

The WITNESS: I think I have made the answer I would stand by in any event.

Mr. MACDOUGALL: With respect to the question raised by Mr. Green, as to veterans handling being thrown into the hands of civilian employees—

The CHAIRMAN: Speak up, we cannot hear you.

Mr. MACDOUGALL: Is that an all-persuasive argument? Is there not something to be said for the fact, and correct me if I am wrong, that this system suggested, getting their payments from the Unemployment Insurance Commission, is going to speed up results—as far as the veterans who have been possibly for two weeks employed and then for two weeks unemployed in the months? He is going to get quicker results as far as the return of money is concerned under this system than he would under the old?

The WITNESS: I cannot voice an opinion on that because I must say I am not clear on the administration set-up, and I do not know whether the department is entirely clear on it until they have established their bill.