

The members of the veterans committee did noble work in trying to advance legislation that would be more in the interests of our veterans and their widows. I want to say to the minister that in the short time he has served he has gained the confidence, not only of those who have been favourably dealt with but of those who are somewhat disappointed. But, as has been said, this is a continuing work. I believe I am only reflecting the views of many in my part of Canada when I say I feel that this matter will not die simply because a particular cross-section of this house which was serving on the veterans committee decided to split on the lines which have been indicated by the hon. member for Acadia. Perhaps the minister will find ways of correcting these inconsistencies in connection with those who served equally as well as those who are being favourably treated by the terms of this bill. I want to impress upon the minister the need for continuing this work, so that there will be no inconsistencies in the administration of veterans affairs.

Mr. HERRIDGE: As a member of the veterans affairs committee, I first wish to indicate the keen enjoyment I have had in working on that committee. I think I speak for all the members of the committee when I express my appreciation of the way in which the chairman of the war veterans allowance board, his officials and the officials of the Department of Veterans Affairs presented evidence, facts, figures and information to the committee. I have rarely sat on a committee where information has been given more clearly and more fully. Anything the committee asked for concerning any aspect of veterans affairs was presented without question and in an understandable form.

I do not want to take up time this afternoon by speaking at length, but I should like to support what previous speakers have said with regard to disappointment in connection with certain aspects of this bill. I think the major disappointment as far as veterans' organizations are concerned is in connection with the treatment given to their suggested amendments. I am sure that the \$40 a month which was decided upon was far short of what the veterans' organizations of this country expected, and hoped for and desired.

A couple of weeks ago I had an opportunity of attending the dominion convention of the Canadian Legion at Saskatoon. Many matters of great interest to the delegates and to the Canadian people were brought up before that large gathering of nearly one thousand delegates. I think the matter of greatest interest to the delegates at that convention

[Mr. Lockhart.]

was that of securing \$50 a month for those who are entitled to war veterans allowance. That was evidenced by the special concern about the matter, and by the sending of telegrams to the minister and the chairman of the committee on veterans affairs, urging reconsideration of the committee's former decisions.

I am sure the attitude of the legion and other veterans' organizations has the support of a large number of people in this country. I am sure, too, that the majority of the Canadian people wish to make certain that aging veterans have at least sufficient to get along in a very modest way. I am sure no one would suggest that \$40 a month is sufficient under present living costs and conditions.

These men form a particular group. In many instances they have suffered pre-aging and war disabilities. Owing to developments within our industrial structure, it is much more difficult for them to obtain additional employment than it was twenty years ago. I will admit that in the smaller places many of these men can supplement their income to a limited extent, but in the larger centres it is becoming increasingly difficult to do this from day to day.

Therefore I again support the remarks of hon. members who have expressed their disappointment concerning the decision to grant only \$40 a month to those entitled to war veterans allowance.

Then, there is a group of imperials who have resided in this country for twenty years but who served with the British forces. In so doing, they were indirectly defending Canada. They have come to this country and spent many years of their lives here. Now many of them are in a position where they require assistance. I am quite sure that here, again, not only the veterans' organizations but the vast majority of the Canadian people would wish to see them given entitlement to war veterans allowance.

There is also the group of Canadians who served only in England. As was mentioned by a previous speaker, prior to the recent convention the legion had not taken a stand on this matter. It is now the considered opinion of the legion, as a result of comradeship and a fellow feeling for those in distress, that those who saw service in England should be brought under the War Veterans Allowance Act, and the legion has so urged upon the government and the committee.

We have to look at this question from all points of view. We must have a sense of responsibility and consider the financial aspects of the matter. But when one con-