

Canadian pension commission his opinion based solely on a statement alleged by Doctor B. F. Keillor to have been made to him by John Thom?

Did John Thom submit evidence to the Canadian pension commission denying the statements attributed to him by Doctor B. F. Keillor and submitting documentary evidence in proof they should have been expunged from the records as falsities?

Did the Canadian pension commission accept Doctor William Baillie's opinion, based on Doctor B. F. Keillor's challenged statements, to outlaw John Thom's pension claim as a total war disability?

The hon. member for Swift Current, on the same day and in the same debate, also had something to say at page 5767 of *Hansard*. I am inclined to think this would be a place where, with the permission of the committee, it might be possible to place the hon. member's remarks on *Hansard* without reading them.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Agreed.

Mr. BLACKMORE: But I am in the hands of the committee. Perhaps I could give the general purport of the hon. member's remarks. He is right here, and will be able to say whether or not I am right. His statement was to the effect that there were irregularities in regard to psychiatrists who were treating men. In the course of his remarks he conveyed the idea that so many of these unhappy stories had reached members of parliament that he felt it was time a public inquiry was made, as a result of which we would be able to get the truth and form our judgment on the basis of actual proof.

Let me read now the statement by Mr. Mackenzie, then minister of veterans affairs:

As far as we are concerned, I would welcome a committee of three doctors from this house to go into the suggestions that have been submitted, and I would suggest the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. McCann), the hon. member for Lanark (Mr. Blair) and the hon. member for Inverness-Richmond (Mr. McGarry). They could meet some time between now and the next session and call in whom they want and submit a first-class report.

Mr. Bentley: That is quite a concession for the minister to make and I appreciate it, but I would ask him to go one step farther and include a member from this end of the house—

Mr. COTE (Matapedia-Matane): May I ask a question now?

Mr. BLACKMORE: Why not allow me to finish reading from *Hansard*?

—because we have no doctors—to consider the layman's point of view.

Mr. Mackenzie: Absolutely yes.

Mr. Bentley: If the minister says he will do that, I have nothing further to add except thank you.

That is interesting, because that is the situation which brought about the appointment of the McCann commission, which I intend to examine into in some detail. The minister promised, according to page 5769 of *Hansard*, that he would set up a commission "to submit a first-class report." A charge was made in this house by two responsible members of parliament and by two members of the veterans affairs committee. In my opinion that matter should have been investigated for this house, and a report involving the hearings should have been made to this house.

Two specific charges were made. The first was that there had been falsification of records, and the second had to do with the evils of psychiatrists. The McCann commission was set up under P.C. 4980 of 1947 and P.C. 75 of 1948 to conduct an investigation under the Inquiries Act, part I. That is an exceedingly important fact. What does it mean to be appointed a commissioner under part I of the Inquiries Act? Perhaps I should read from the documents under which this commission went to work, as follows:

#### Appendix "A"

Report of a commission appointed under the provisions of part I of the Inquiries Act by order in council P.C. 4980 dated December 4, 1947, as amended by order in council P.C. 75, dated January 8, 1948.

1. The following members of parliament were appointed by order in council P.C. 4980 dated December 4, 1947, and order in council P.C. 75, dated January 8, 1948, as commissioners under part I of the Inquiries Act for the purposes hereinafter set forth:

The Hon. James J. McCann, M.P., chairman, Ottawa, Ont.

Dr. M. E. McGarry, M.P., Margaree Forks, N.S.

Dr. W. G. Blair, M.P., Perth, Ont.

J. O. Probe, Esq., M.P., Regina, Sask.

R. H. Winters, Esq., M.P., Lunenburg, N.S. in the absence of the Hon. James J. McCann, M.P.

F. L. Barrow, Esq., Ottawa, Ont., departmental secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs, was secretary of the commission.

2. The purpose of the commission was to investigate complaints made by Walter H. Kirchner, Esq., M.C., D.C.M., secretary, Canadian Combat Veterans Association, Inc., Vancouver, B.C., regarding pension and treatment services and, in particular, to inquire into and report to the Minister of Veterans Affairs on

(i) the adequacy of the treatment provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs with respect to the cases concerning which Mr. Kirchner has made representations;

(ii) the qualifications and competence of departmental doctors treating these cases; and

(iii) the adequacy of pension consideration given to the cases concerning which Mr. Kirchner has made representations.