

The CHAIRMAN: And all you would do, Mr. Green, with deference, is change the problem; instead of dealing now with the 1931 or 1932 widow, we would have lots of 1932 and 1933 widows.

Mr. GREEN: No, the actual fact is that there are practically no Imperial veterans who came here after 1930. I do not think there were more than a handful from then until the time of the Second Great War, and in fact to the end of the Second Great War. Nobody was asking for protection for the man who came here after 1930. We are only trying to help the group who came here before 1930.

The CHAIRMAN: In any case, Mr. Green, it has not been the principle to offer more than these people themselves have asked for.

Mr. LENNARD: Well, Mr. Chairman, just because the veterans—unfortunately, at the time the Imperial Veterans Association and other organizations asked for this in the manner in which it was drafted there is no reason why it should last forever as it stands simply because a mistake may have been made in drafting it. Mistakes have been made by this and various committees; and this very Act here that we have before us comes before us because it is bringing this whole matter up to date because of mistakes that have been made in the past. I do not see why because some veteran organization asked for certain things that they should be held strictly to what they asked for and that that should be accepted as necessarily right or just.

Mr. QUELCH: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if somebody could tell us how much money would be involved in this proposal?

The CHAIRMAN: Does anybody know? I do not think that anyone has ever attempted or made any attempt to discover it because, you see, it has never been seriously considered because of the fact—it is not a question of whether we like it or not, but that the introduction of it would be a direct abandonment of the principle that all the benefits in war veterans allowance flow from the veteran.

Mr. QUELCH: I don't agree with that at all, Mr. Chairman; this is one case in which it does not seem logical to me to take that view.

The CHAIRMAN: I am not arguing.

Mr. QUELCH: He would have resided in this country if he had not died. He would have been eligible for it if he had not died. It is a matter of qualification as far as pension is concerned; the qualification of becoming domiciled in this country and having resided here for 20 years. Surely, you are not going to divest the widow of the right to that pension just because he happened to die before he had a chance to complete his 20 years of domicile.

The CHAIRMAN: I don't want to argue this thing. I am trying to give you all the information that is available rather than my own opinion. But, Mr. Quelch, you who have been supporting this point are arguing for special consideration for the widow of the Imperial veteran, and not only of the Imperial veteran but of any allied or associated veteran in this country; which in effect means that it would make it available to any other widow living in any other country in any part of the world who is left in necessitous circumstances. Your argument is for the creation of a special privilege to a small group while that very same privilege is not accorded to the widows of Canadian veterans who may have been left in necessitous circumstances.

Mr. QUELCH: But the provision of special benefits to Imperial veterans and their widows was introduced into the Act.

The CHAIRMAN: That is right.

Mr. QUELCH: But they are not qualified for it if they happen to die before having lived here for 20 years.