

Mr. LAMBERT: Is this an operational grant? Is this a grant towards the cost of operation of this hospital?

Mr. ARMSTRONG: No; this is a grant towards construction: it has nothing to do with the operation of the hospital.

Mr. WEBSTER: It is not recurring?

Mr. ARMSTRONG: It is not recurring, no.

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any further questions? Shall the item carry?

Item agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN: Vote 235, civil pensions and other benefits. Are there any questions, gentlemen—or may it carry?

PENSIONS AND OTHER BENEFITS

Item 235. Civil Pensions, as detailed in the Estimates \$ 2,457

Item agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN: Vote 236, payments in respect of members of the Royal Canadian Air Force killed while on leave as instructors. Are there any questions, gentlemen?

Item 236. To authorize in respect of members of the Royal Canadian Air Force on leave without pay and serving as instructors with civilian training organizations operating under the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan who were killed, payment to their dependents of amounts equal to the amounts such dependents would have received under the Pension Act, as amended, had such service as instructors been military service in the armed forces of Canada, less the value of any benefits received by such dependents under insurance contracts which were effected on the lives of such members of the Royal Canadian Air Force by or at the expense of the civilian organizations \$ 3,840

Mr. HELLYER: Are those continuing in respect to instructors killed during World War II?

Mr. ARMSTRONG: These all apply to World War II instructors.

Mr. HELLYER: That is the only time R.C.A.F. officers were given leave to—

Mr. ARMSTRONG: That is right. These were men who were employed as civilian instructors. This vote brings their pension in line with the provisions of the Pensions Act which were made subsequently.

The CHAIRMAN: The next item, payments under Parts 1-4, is statutory. Vote 237 is government's contribution to the Permanent Services Pension Account, from \$51,791,054, up to \$53,279,356. Are there any questions?

Item 237. Government's contribution to the Permanent Services Pension Account \$53,279,356

Mr. LAMBERT: Is the pattern that it is an increasing one?

Mr. ARMSTRONG: The government contribution to the pension account is 10 per cent; it is one and two-thirds of the contribution made by the contributor. Consequently, it changes in line with the total pay and allowance bill, and therefore it has tended to go up somewhat.

Mr. SMITH (*Calgary South*): What does this amount actually apply to?

Mr. ARMSTRONG: This is what is known as part 5 of the Long Service Pension Act for members of the forces. All the members of the forces who joined after 1947 are under that part of the act—and others may elect to be under it.

Mr. SMITH (*Calgary South*): Is there not a difference between the services in this respect, Mr. Armstrong, in that there was a period in which an R.C.A.F. member was not permitted to have the status of regular service, differentiated from the other two services, because for a period of a number of years there was no such status which he could obtain? Otherwise, with the R.C.A.F. there was a period which elapsed before he could apply for a permanent commission, or permanent service as another rank?