

Mr. NESBITT: My hon. friend will pardon my stupidity, but what resolution does he refer to?

Mr. POWER: The resolution moved on March 15, by Mr. Charles Gavin Power, to be found at page 444 of Hansard.

Mr. NESBITT: What clause of the Bill are you trying to amend?

Mr. POWER: Subsection (7) of section 23.

Mr. NESBITT: What is the amendment?

Mr. POWER: I move that all the words after "sources" in line 5 of page 6 of the Bill be stricken out.

Mr. NICHOLSON (Algoma): I wish to say a word in support of the hon. member for Quebec South.

Mr. POWER: Good man.

Mr. NICHOLSON (Algoma): I do not believe it is in harmony with the spirit of the country that we should reduce the pension of a widowed mother for any of the reasons given. I do not say this in criticism of the committee, for whom I have the highest respect. Nevertheless, I do not believe that it is in harmony with the spirit of the majority of the members, at least so far as they have expressed themselves, that because a woman may take in washing to the extent of \$20 a month—

Some hon. MEMBERS: No.

Mr. NESBITT: No private earnings are counted.

Mr. NICHOLSON (Algoma): The clause says that the pension to a widowed mother shall not be reduced on account of her earnings, etc., or on account of her having an income which does not exceed \$240 per annum.

Mr. NESBITT: That is, income.

Mr. NICHOLSON (Algoma): Then the clause is badly worded. But in any event, I say that if we grant a pension to a widowed mother we ought to leave her alone. The thing I object to above all is the constant harrying of the widowed mother by inspectors who go around to find out what she is getting in the shape of an income. I know what are the feelings of the woman who has lost her boy, and the question as to whether or not she is getting an income to live on should be settled in some other way than by having inspectors going to her home to investigate conditions and to ascertain whether she may have secured something in the way of an income from

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some source, perhaps from a daughter who is earning a little, or from a son who is gracious enough to give to his mother a part of his earnings.

Mr. NESBITT: Nothing is deducted on account of the daughter's earnings.

Mr. NICHOLSON (Algoma): What she receives from her daughter is part of her income "from other sources," I take it.

Mr. POWER: If the daughter gives her a certain amount of money, that would be regarded as income.

Mr. NICHOLSON (Algoma): I would earnestly suggest that, once having given the widowed mother a pension, we should leave her alone without constant and irritating interference.

The CHAIRMAN: I cannot place before the committee the amendment submitted by the hon. member for Quebec South (Mr. Power) because it is not in order. By striking out the words "240 per annum" the committee would be increasing the charges upon the public treasury, and that cannot be done unless preceded by resolution. The amendment is therefore not in order at this stage.

Mr. POWER: Last year when this matter was discussed the same question was brought up by the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Rowell), but I do not think he asked the mover of the resolution, the hon. member for London (Mr. Cronyn), to withdraw his amendment on that account. I think the matter was allowed to be discussed.

The CHAIRMAN: The matter can undoubtedly be discussed, because it is relevant to the clause which is before the committee. It can be discussed as a suggestion to the Government, but it cannot be moved in the form of an amendment.

Mr. COOPER: What I would direct attention to is schedule A—"Bonus outside Canada" and "Bonus in Canada." It seems to me that, under this head, we are making a provision that deliberately disregards the promises made to the men that came from the United States to join our forces. These men were unquestionably notified on enlisting that they and their dependents would without doubt participate in the full benefits given members of the Canadian Expeditionary Force. They were told that their dependents would benefit to the same extent as dependents of men in the C.E.F. living in Canada.