

Answer—This question is not applicable in view of the answers to questions 14, 15, 16 and 17, since the assumption is based on false premises.

In reply to statement made by Mr. J. H. Blackmore, as reported in House of Commons debates, June 18, 1948, page 5434, column 2.

1. Statement—First, the evidence I have indicates too strongly that psychiatrists attached to the Canadian veterans affairs department are employed occasionally to deprive a deserving veteran of the financial reimbursement to which he is legally entitled.

Comment—This statement is unwarranted and entirely without foundation in fact. These physicians are employed for the single purpose of giving Canadian veterans every opportunity for recovery from psychiatric ailments.

It may at this time be pointed out that the professors of psychiatry from eight Canadian medical schools serve the treatment services of the Department of Veterans Affairs in some capacity. The leading psychiatrists in Canada are retained as part time consultants and the majority of those employed by the department are members of the American Psychiatric Association. When the hon. member from Lethbridge casts aspersions at D.V.A. psychiatrists, he therefore automatically includes the highest men in this profession in Canada. It is ridiculous for him to assume either that these physicians would allow their opinion to be purchased to the disadvantage of Canadian veterans or that the Department of Veterans Affairs would ever consider such a course of action, even if it were possible.

It cannot be stressed too strongly that the treatment services of the Department of Veterans Affairs exists for the sole purpose of assisting the veteran to the greatest degree possible in his physical and mental rehabilitation. There is no basis for any belief to the contrary.

2. Statement—Second, certain of these psychiatrists are of the type exemplified by General Brock Chisholm, a man who gave the definite impression that he was distinctly materialistic, if not crude, sordid or even sadistic in his outlook upon human life.

Comment—This is the personal view of the hon. member from Lethbridge regarding one psychiatrist and does not call for comments.

3. Statement—And, third, such so-called psychiatrists, men who should be called rather pseudo-psychiatrists, are not to be named in the same breath with those noble psychiatric healers who in Britain, the United States, Australia and other lands are, with Christlike devotion to spiritual values, salvaging wounded souls stricken by the desecrating hand of war.

Comment—There is a great deal of evidence available in the department and elsewhere which shows that this statement is not true. The psychiatrists in this department and psychiatrists generally in Canada are held in high repute by leading psychiatrists the world over and this includes opinions from those in Britain, the United States and Australia.

On the following day when the news of these charges was carried by the press I had, without solicitation or without any knowledge, a telegram from the president of the American Psychiatric Association in Topeka, Kansas, indicating a view on our services in

Canada and the type of men engaged in that service. The telegram is as follows:

Accusations against Canadian psychiatrists in their treatment of veterans by a member of parliament are to be deplored because of extremely unfortunate effect of such misinformation. During the war in my position as chief consultant in psychiatry for the surgeon-general of the United States army, I personally visited many hospitals for veterans in Canada and know first hand of the work. I am personally acquainted with many Canadian psychiatrists and voice the sentiment of our leaders in American psychiatry in expressing high esteem of and regard for them. In their efforts to provide treatment instead of pensions they are acting in accord with best medical and psychiatric principles. For your own information Canadian psychiatrists have the full support in their efforts of the nearly 5,000 psychiatrists in our mutual organization the American Psychiatric Association. I hope you will give the Canadian psychiatrists your full support.

The author of this telegram has given permission for it to be used.

In addition to the questions already answered relating to Mr. Connorton, the hon. member for Lethbridge asked certain other questions relating to V-86097, Walsh, Stanley, L. These questions appear on page 5433 of *Hansard* of June 18. I should like to submit the answers to these questions. They are as follows:

Mr. Walsh enlisted in May, 1944, and was discharged in March, 1946, after serving in Canada.

In July, 1944, two months after enlistment, he gave a history of having been involved in a car accident some four months previously, following which he was in hospital for two days; X-ray reports at that time were negative. He also gave a history of having incurred an injury to his back with pain in the dorsal area left shoulder and arm shortly after enlistment, while engaged in physical training. He later gave a history of having been injured while playing football. Finally, on discharge, he complained of pain in the lower back and stated his back had become sore after he had slipped in the shipwright's shop in Vancouver.

Careful investigation was carried out, which finally resulted in a diagnosis of spondylolisthesis. A small congenital defect was also found in the fifth lumbar and first sacral vertebrae.

In its decision on spondylolisthesis, the commission took cognizance of the opinions of leading orthopaedic specialists, who are in general agreement that this condition may arise from fracture of the articular processes of the lumbosacral joint, or from imperfect development of the laminae of the lowest lumbar vertebra. As there was no evidence of a fracture but definite evidence, supported by X-ray findings, of a congenital defect, the commission ruled—bilateral defective laminae of fifth lumbar vertebra with spondylolisthesis, pre-enlistment condition, aggravated three-fifths during service in Canada.

The opinions of two specialists, to which reference has been made above, are as follows: