

Smallwood's arithmetic but, for the love of Pete, will you bear in mind total figures, and put them accurately on the record. Do not give us this Joey Smallwood arithmetic; it just does not add up to your figures.

Hon. Mr. Carter: To take the total figure, the average Canadian family consists of a man, a wife and two children. The 100 per cent pensioner receives \$4,704 as a basic pension for himself, another \$1,176 for his wife, and \$1,058 for the two children, amounting to a total of \$6,938, or almost \$7,000. That in my opinion compares very well with average salaries. I have not checked the figures, as we were not thinking of giving the bill third reading tonight and I would have an opportunity to investigate the correct figures tomorrow. Based on the research carried out by the Special Senate Committee on Poverty, it is my opinion that this figure is well above the average Canadian salary.

Honourable senators must also remember that many veterans, even 100 per cent pensioners, in addition to receiving a pension have also been rehabilitated by the government. Many of them are professionals, such as lawyers and doctors, who have been educated under the veterans' charter. They are, therefore, earning professional salaries in addition to receiving the pension as a matter of right.

The widows, who have no means of supplementing their incomes and are totally dependent on the amount of the pension, suffer most, of course. It must not be assumed, however, that every pensioner, or even every 100 per cent pensioner, is totally dependent on the amount of pension received. As I said, no one would be happier than I if we could double this figure, but the government in its wisdom has decided that this is as far as it can go at this time. It has made a case, apparently, which has been accepted by the veterans' organizations and the committee in the other place, who are quite happy with this. They must have been impressed by the government's contention that to establish this type of precedent would immediately invite other categories, such as old age pensioners and other groups, to press for the same principle to be applied to their pensions.

Hon. Mr. Phillips: Now, you do not really mean that, do you?

Hon. Mr. Carter: I do not condemn the government for not accepting that precedent, which in my opinion they would have to consider very carefully. I am very happy that Bill C-202 and the increases embodied in it are a substantial step forward as compared to the amounts received by the veterans only two years ago.

Hon. Mr. Phillips: Honourable senators, as the seconder of the motion, I feel that I must make a few brief remarks, and again point out that Senator Carter used the most advantageous figures. However, we will not accomplish anything for the veterans tonight by bandying back and forth whether it is 100 per cent, 50 per cent, or the 48 per cent at which the widow is cut off. We will not accomplish anything before July 1 if we become involved in that.

Honourable senators, I was rather surprised that Senator Carter would put forward the fact that the government rehabilitated many veterans. There is nothing unusual in that. Today I can listen to members of this chamber cry for rehabilitation of criminals. Surely a veteran is entitled to the same rehabilitation as a criminal, and the fact that he

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has been rehabilitated by the government should not be thrown in his face. If it is intended to do that, we must recognize the fact that it may be that he was uprooted and taken away by the government.

My final point is that I do not understand Senator Carter's viewpoint that if certain benefits were granted to veterans, other groups such as old age pensioners would demand the same treatment. I am quite prepared to give old age pensioners their due, and they have a great deal due to them. On the other hand, I wish to make it clear that a veteran is in a class of his own. He has earned that classification, which no amount of money, no amount of age, and no amount of pressure can earn. Let us treat the classification of veteran with respect, and quit our quibbling back and forth over this bill. I know it is not perfect and am not happy with it, but I for one would like to see it in effect on July 1.

Hon. Mr. Buckwold: Honourable senators, I wonder if Senator Carter would answer a question, which I ask really for my own information. Is the veteran who is receiving the pension entitled also to the old age pension?

● (2100)

Hon. Mr. Carter: Yes.

Hon. Mr. Buckwold: In addition, is he entitled to any part of a Canada pension to which he may have contributed?

Hon. Mr. Carter: Yes, that is right. The war veteran's pension, under the Pension Act, is a pension received as a matter of right. In addition, the veteran is entitled to receive the old age pension and any civil pension which he may have from the Public Service, plus any benefits under the Canadian Pension Plan. If he is a totally disabled veteran, he can receive a dependant's allowance up to, I believe, \$4,000. He is entitled, in addition, to benefits for his children, education benefits, and so on. This is not a total package.

Hon. Mr. Choquette: You would have forgotten that, had it not been for the question of Senator Buckwold.

Hon. Mr. Buckwold: In addition to the \$4,700 anyone over 65 would draw, if he is a single person, there is \$1,200 in old age pension. In many cases he may also be drawing benefits under the Canada Pension Plan to which he would have contributed. The point I am making is that in addition to what he will receive under the bill now before us, the veteran, at the age of 65, is entitled to a considerable sum in addition.

Hon. Mr. Macdonald: Would the honourable senator tell us why he should not receive it? He is entitled to it as much as anyone else.

Hon. Mr. Buckwold: I would not want honourable senators to feel that \$4,704 was all that a single 100 per cent pensioner would receive at the age of 65. That seems to have been the impression.

Hon. Mr. Phillips: Someone, namely, Senator Buckwold, completely unfamiliar with veterans' legislation, has interrupted and left on the record the fact that a war veteran receiving the war veterans allowance, or what we commonly call the burnt-out pension, receives, with the