

TREATMENT:

Recommendation No. 1:

THAT war disability compensation cases in classes one to eleven be afforded treatment without charge by the Department of Veterans Affairs for non-entitlement conditions.

Comment:

We have been in agreement and have made representations on previous occasions, notably in 1954, that the war disabled in classes one to eleven should be given treatment without charge for conditions which have been ruled as not related to service. Falling within this category are conditions that in the mind of the individual concerned and/or his relatives, friends and even medical consultants are considered to be directly or indirectly related to disabilities for which he has entitlement or to conditions under which he served. In addition, there are conditions for which the individual and his medical consultant are of the opinion that a strong relationship obtains because of the strain of wearing an artificial appliance or of treatments required for the condition for which he has entitlement. A serious disability of any type imposes strain on the physical, nervous and even the mental condition of the individual concerned. We appreciate the fact that the War Veterans Allowance recipients are automatically accorded free treatment at any time for any condition. We applauded these provisions as being essential and humane. We have tried to rationalize the position of the seriously disabled who because of war disability compensation and income from any other source are substantially barred from free treatment for any condition that has not been ascribed to service. We believe that while we applaud the improved hospital standards and the efforts of the medical services to adjust and insofar as possible to meet the needs of the seriously disabled, we are forced to realize the existing limitations. We urge, therefore, that consideration be given at the earliest opportunity. In 1954, we suggested that if no other satisfactory means be found of meeting this problem that the government of Canada should look into the matter of establishing a medical service and hospitalization policy under a contributing plan through which the veteran might authorize deductions from whatever pension he may be in receipt of to meet the premiums.

Recommendation No. 2:

THAT the practice of deducting \$15 per month from the allowance payable to a disability pensioner, when he goes into a Department of Veterans Affairs hospital for treatment of a disability which has occurred as a result of active service, be eliminated. This Council on previous occasions, notably in 1954, has continued advocating this policy and are still of the same opinion.

Comment:

We are certain that the disability pensioner was not charged \$15 per month while being treated in dressing stations or in general hospitals before being discharged. It is our opinion that the people of Canada are not aware that their disabled veterans are being charged this \$15 a month for treatment of disabilities incurred on active service. We are further of opinion that there is no provision in the Canadian Pension Act which would provide for said deduction, and that any such regulation passed under the provisions of the Department of Veterans Affairs Act is inconsistent with the intent of the provisions of the said Act and is repugnant to the principle of all veterans' legislation com-