

You will notice also that something has been added; and that is that the recipient at the time he leaves the country must have been a resident in Canada for the 12 months preceding that day. This is because the principle has not been accepted that the allowance would be paid indiscriminately, anywhere in the world, at any time. When we were given instructions to draft something suitable we immediately ran up against the possibility of a veteran having served with the Canadian forces, and having, immediately after the war, moved to the United States, from somewhere around Windsor for instance, to Detroit or places close to the Canadian border. If this qualification of 12 months' residence was not there, he could easily cross over the Canadian border and make application for an allowance, stay here for a week or ten days while the application was processed and, as soon as he got the allowance approved, go back to the States and live there indefinitely. He is not, we thought, a bona fide case of a Canadian recipient wanting to absent himself.

By the same token, a Canadian veteran who decided to stay in England after the war and never came back to Canada does not have the same opportunity to come here for a couple of days and qualify and then go back to England. We wanted to treat all veterans the same way, wherever they may be residing.

It was felt that while this was not a very difficult qualification to fulfil, and that practically all veterans and widows would fulfil it, it is a safeguard against the possibility of some cases slipping by to the detriment of other cases just as meritorious.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes. Mr. Weichel?

Mr. WEICHEL: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the deputy minister a question. In the case of a man receiving the war veterans allowance—say he receives it now and his wife passes away and he has a daughter living in Detroit and would like to move and live with her—he would have to stay here for a year before he moved?

Mr. LALONDE: No, if he is a recipient and wants to live in Detroit, and he has been living in Canada for the past year, whether he was a recipient for the whole of that year does not make any difference. As long as he had been a Canadian resident for a year before absenting himself, he is qualified.

Mr. HERRIDGE: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Deputy Minister a question based on an actual case coming within my experience.

A widow of a veteran, who served in the same battalion as I did, lived in Canada for forty years. Her husband died three or four years ago, and shortly afterwards she was eligible for and received the allowance under the War Veterans Allowance Act. Owing to a sister being lonely in England last year, she left for England and is now residing in England. Of course, on leaving Canada she lost her war veterans allowance.

Now, my question is this: In writing to a person like that I want to advise her, possibly, as to how she can best take advantage of the old age security legislation and the War Veterans Allowance Act—what should I tell her? I realize she has, under this legislation, to return to Canada and reside here for 12 months. But what can I advise her with respect to getting the difference between the allowance and the permissible income, or vice versa, made up from old age security? Would the deputy minister mind outlining what should be done in a case like that?

Mr. ORMISTON: Write him a letter.

Mr. LALONDE: Mr. Herridge, your assumption is correct, that she would have to return to Canada and reside here for 12 months before she could absent herself again and retain eligibility for the allowance. But if she returned to Canada she would be eligible to receive the allowance here the moment she set foot in Canada, and would have no waiting period before receiving her allowance while in Canada. After she has resided here for 12 months, if she