

Supply—Veterans Affairs

Mr. YOUNG: Is it true that in the case of a student attending university in the United States the \$60 granted by the government is withdrawn in part, that he is permitted only to draw \$10 a week in United States currency? I cannot vouch for the accuracy of the statement, but I should like the minister to tell us whether or not it is the case.

Mr. GREGG: It is not true that it is withheld. The student is able to get \$60, if he is single, during his training there, just as he would if he were training in Canada.

Mr. MOORE: The deliberations of the veterans affairs committee this year have shown that the problems of veterans will be with the government for some time to come. I believe the special committee on veterans affairs did a pretty good job this year; and in view of the problems veterans may have in future I should like the minister to consider having the veterans affairs committee as a permanent committee of the house.

Mr. GREGG: That question was brought up in the early part of the session, and I indicated that I felt we should take some time to consider it. It should be pointed out that in some forty meetings of the committee this year the existing legislation was carefully reviewed. I believe representations were received from practically every body and every group that wished to make them. In addition to changes in legislation, further recommendations have been submitted to me to pass on to the government. My own deputy and his officials were in attendance at many of the forty meetings of that committee, during which a great deal of hard work was done by the members; some of the officials attended every meeting. They were glad to do so, and I believe a resolution expressing appreciation of their work was adopted by the committee. But I would point out that in attending these meetings and in helping improve our legislation and our plans, at the same time they were leaving important work within the department itself to be done by someone else. So in these closing hours of the session, in reply to the question asked earlier by the hon. member for Royal and repeated just now by the hon. member for Churchill, I must say that during the coming session of parliament I would rather give the department an opportunity to digest the recommendations already made and carry out the plans consequent upon amendments to the legislation. So at this time, at any rate, I would not recommend that a permanent committee be set up.

Item agreed to.

[Mr. Gregg.]

925. War veterans' allowances — further amount required, \$4,325,000.

Mr. BLACKMORE: Under this item I believe it is fitting that I should discuss the next matter I wish to draw to the attention of the committee. Before doing so, once more I wish to assure the minister that I have no antipathy toward anyone, neither toward him nor toward his department; but when these stories come, as they come incessantly, it becomes the duty of any ordinary member of parliament to look into them and not just accept the words of those who happen to be in authority. I was a schoolteacher for twenty-one years, so that I am not without some experience with people, or without experience with officers, either.

The matter I desire to discuss at this time is the McCann commission. I wish to examine this matter with some care before the committee this evening. Once more I am going to read rather rapidly, when I have to read, in the hope that we shall be able to finish in time.

The CHAIRMAN: Order. Would it suit the hon. member if the committee gave unanimous consent to allow him to place his statement on *Hansard* without having the statement read?

Mr. BLACKMORE: No, it would not be possible to place it on *Hansard*; I think I shall have to read it. I can read quite rapidly, though.

The CHAIRMAN: I thought it might save considerable time if the committee would agree to permit the hon. member to place his statement on *Hansard*.

Mr. BLACKMORE: It is quite all right with me if it is on *Hansard*, but I think hon. members should hear the facts as I read them. I am, however, in the hands of the committee in that respect. I only want the statement on record, so that the minister may give it consideration.

The CHAIRMAN: Has the hon. member unanimous consent?

Mr. KNOWLES: I am as anxious as anyone else to go home, but I think it would be a bad precedent.

Mr. BLACKMORE: Then I shall read certain passages. There is a good deal of reading to be done, but I consider it necessary to have it on record so that the people may appraise the situation. On July 16, 1947, the hon. member for Acadia made a speech, as recorded at page 5764 of *Hansard* for that year. In that speech these questions were asked:

Did Doctor William Baillie, departmental psychiatric consultant, who has never seen John Thom personally, submit as "evidence" to the