

wear and tear on clothing. It should be noted that apart from the extra wear and tear on clothing due to metal and wood parts as well as webb and leather supporting straps, one of the principal and most serious causes of damage to suits is due to suiting material in the trouser leg or sleeve becoming a shock absorber between the metal parts of an artificial appliance and the hard corners of wood or metal desks or other objects. Despite extra care, the life of the average suit of clothes is less than half what it would be under normal conditions.

*Treatment Provision.*

While we realize that your order of reference may not specifically include provision for suggestions or comment in respect to treatment regulations, we respectfully beg leave to submit the following for the record and your consideration.

*Recommendation.*

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.*

Complications and cases of hospitalization in general have become an important and serious factor in the life of veterans especially those in the major war casualty group. Various efforts have been made to relieve the worries affecting these men, but each time complications have usually multiplied to the point of becoming a plague to those responsible for administration and a source of confusion to the veterans concerned. An effort was made several years ago to organize a Blue Cross coverage but it soon became obvious with the variations in Blue Cross coverage and fees in the various provinces in which they operated that increasing difficulties in meeting their requirements and at the same time meeting the needs of the veterans made the plan finally impractical. If the government of Canada and the Department of Veterans Affairs have definitely concluded that the Canadian economy cannot face this issue and provide free treatment for non-entitlement conditions of the major casualties of the two great wars, constituting after deduction for those otherwise covered, less than one-third of the total number of surviving casualties, then we would respectfully suggest that the Department of Veterans Affairs be authorized to work out a medical insurance and hospital policy designed to cover all war disabled veterans and permit the veteran in the group to subscribe or authorize deduction from pension payments due.

In making this presentation, we have sought only to cover outstanding points requiring attention. We believe that the recommendations we have just made will serve to clear certain difficulties and hardships. We greatly appreciate the consideration you have shown the organizations we represent. We also wish to express our appreciation to the administrators of the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Canadian Pension Commission for the efforts they have made to ensure a humane application of the provisions for ex-servicemen as authorized by the House of Commons to date.

Mr. LENNARD: Could I ask Mr. Lambert a question?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Lennard. I think we will follow the procedure of the other day. I believe it is a matter of timing. Colonel Baker indicated that he would ask the representatives of each group to speak. It is a question of whether we want to ask questions after each one speaks or whether we wish to hear them all and then have questions. This council has five component parts and they are all here and will be here and the question is whether we will take them one at a time. What is your wish?