

think the committee will grasp the idea that the Lord gives and never takes away, and governments are very much the same. So until we discover the nature and the permanency of the problem, let us not take it away before we get it.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: It is being done to meet the high cost of living?

The CHAIRMAN: Not so much because of the high cost of living as the fact that the problem is increasing with the advancing years of these pensioners. Anyway, it is partly related to the high cost of living and partly related to their exigencies. It has been done in England, Australia and New Zealand; and our observations are that it is meeting a definite need there and we think we can make it work here.

Mr. GREEN: When the supplement for war veterans allowance was introduced, in some way we got the impression that it was only a test and that in a short time there would be legislation. But as you know, there is no legislation as yet. Therefore, the whole supplement is dependent on a vote which may or may not be brought in each year. It looks as though the intention is to make that method permanent. Now, presumably, this supplementary pension allowance is in the same category, is it not?

The CHAIRMAN: I cannot commit anybody to the unforeseeable future but first of all, dealing with the War Veterans Allowance Act, it would be my hope to do the necessary revamping to the War Veterans Allowance Act to fit with what now seems to be an assured program of old age security for all people in this country. At the time this Act is redrafted we can bring those things together. That would be my hope and, I think, the expectation of most people. We have not recently done anything to the War Veterans Allowance Act. I would anticipate that all three things would result in a new Act.

It would be my hope that these matters could be all tidied up at one time—the general improvement of the old age security problem and the necessary amendments to the legislation under the War Veterans Allowance Act.

With respect to this, quite frankly it is for us a radical departure from what has been our pension legislation. It has been carefully analyzed, and we believe that it will meet the situation. If it does meet it then I do not question but that it will be a matter of policy to incorporate it into permanent legislation.

The WITNESS: There was a question which Mr. Goode asked and which has not been answered.

Mr. Goode asked how we were to define “a major factor in unemployability”. Mr. Chairman, quite frankly, that is something to which you cannot give a mathematical, or extremely precise answer and I would, if I may, give you the gist of our thinking about this problem up to the present. For these purposes the percentage of pension would not be entirely decisive but we would think a condition could be said to be a “major factor” if, after considering the other contributing factors such as age, his adaptability, his previous work record, and the availability of suitable work in the locality it appeared that the pensionable condition has operated so as to prevent his taking some employment that he otherwise might have taken.

You have to examine the record of work during previous years and the results of efforts made by the National Employment Service and the Casualty Welfare to find him suitable employment. We hope that in practice this will work out satisfactorily.

The words “major contributing factors” were put in after some considerable thought. It would be perhaps difficult to imagine any case where a man was pensioned where his disability might not have some effect, and it was thought that these qualifying words would have to be put in.