

Mr. THOMPSON: As I understand it in the case you mentioned the man's income is already at the maximum. My understanding is that he would not be eligible for the assistance fund.

Mr. GREEN: Because having got this allowance it would bring his income up over \$120 yearly ?

Mr. THOMPSON: That is what we understand.

Mr. BROOKS: The total income cannot exceed the ceiling, that is really the point.

Mr. HERRIDGE: I am interested in recommendation 4 on page 7 that Canadian veterans outside Canada, in other parts of the world, should be granted an allowance. My experience is this: that I know several cases of men who receive no war veterans allowance, and who have found it absolutely necessary to move into another climate for reasons of health. One man I know lives in Mexico because he has a lung infection and the altitude and the dryness of the air suits him. He does not receive an allowance, he has very little money, and I wonder if Mr. Thompson can tell the committee whether this type of case is general across Canada, that is cases of veterans who have of necessity to live outside the country for health reasons.

Mr. THOMPSON: I cannot quote you any statistics on that point, because we have not got any. But certainly there is not a month goes by when we do not get one or two letters from men with Canadian service who are now residing in the United States, men who have reached the age of retirement, and sometimes they do not come within the provisions of the social security program in the United States. They write to see whether there is some Canadian counterpart to the United States non-service connected disability pension. I can remember a few cases in recent months, including a case of a man in Arizona who had gone there because of chest trouble. Most of our inquiries come from the United States. These men are no longer employable, and in some cases their families have grown up there. If they came back to Canada it would inflict almost more hardship upon them than if they were to stay in the United States and try to eke out an existence, possibly with the help of the children, on such small incomes as they can get.

Mr. CARTER: I would like to go back to this question of supplementary assistance on page 3. When a veteran applies for this supplementary assistance, an investigation has to be carried out and what I would like to know is this: what is the practice in awarding that assistance? Does it date from the date of the board's decision, or is it made retroactive from the date of the first application?

Mr. BENNETT (*Grey North*): It is retroactive, Mr. Chairman. The veteran is not prejudiced because of delay in processing the application.

Mr. HENDERSON: I was going to follow on, Mr. Thompson, and ask a further question about veterans who are now living outside of Canada. Is it not true that some of these veterans in special cases do get assistance as far as medical services are concerned?

Mr. THOMPSON: There is no provision except for the man who has a disability pension. The department takes care of the disability pensioner, and that applies in any part of the world, through reciprocal arrangements which have been made with other countries. That does not apply to what is referred to as class 13 under the Veterans Treatment regulations. This regulation does not apply to the man living outside Canada.

Mr. PHILPOTT: With reference to the point raised on page 5 about the extra permissible income. I wonder if I can check this point with the Legion officers—are they sure they are taking all possible steps to publicize just what is possible in the way of permissible extra income, because I know that at least