

Mr. JONES (Dominion Secretary and Pensions Officer, Federation of British Canadian Veterans of Canada): Mr. Chairman, distinguished members attending the meeting, honourable members of this committee: I will give a brief preamble before I read the brief on behalf of the federation.

What I have to say is probably embodied in the first paragraph of our brief but I feel that it will not go amiss in thanking this committee and previous committees that we have had the pleasure of appearing before, for the subsequent awards we have received as a result of our representations.

All of us are comrades and we know the benefit of working for the other veteran without thinking of expecting anything personally in so far as appeals are concerned.

As I mentioned in the last parliamentary committee I personally have nothing to gain, never will have, from any appeal we make.

I am introducing to you Flying Officer Gregory, a veteran of World War II R.A.F., in his second term as our president. We have believed in handing over the cudgel to a younger veteran, bringing him along in the feeling that he is working for both World War I and World War II veterans. It is with very sincere thanks that we appreciate this opportunity of coming to see you.

In our brief, which I trust each member has, we confine ourselves solely, or I would say generally, to an increase of 33 1/3 per cent in war veterans allowance. We have attempted not to confuse this issue by minor issues of any description. This we feel is the most important point that we have to submit at this meeting on behalf of the Federation of British Canadian Veterans with whom we all had the pleasure of serving shoulder to shoulder.

As you go along you will probably find slight references to other matters but I would like to point out, Mr. Chairman, that in mentioning these matters you will see as we go along that at the time this brief was prepared there was a little confusion or I might say conflict or uncertainty as to the application of the war veterans allowance and its inclusion with old age security.

So, Mr. Chairman and members of this committee, if I may be permitted to comment briefly on each paragraph probably it will assist in bringing to your attention a clear picture of what we have to submit.

1. The Canadian government has, through its respective Ministers of Veterans Affairs, since 1944, extended a cordial and welcome invitation to representation requested by the Federation of British Canadian Veterans of Canada. The highest esteem for such recognition is doubly appreciated by our membership throughout the dominion. Several thousand British Canadian veterans, and widows of the veterans, have become happy recipients of the measures awarded by the legislation of the Domicility Amendment, May 31, 1950. Again, as of December 2, 1951, by order-in-council the British Canadian and allied veteran was granted entitlement to class 5 (a) and 6 of the treatment regulations of the Canadian Pension Commission—and in addition to those two clauses there was also an award of clause 12(b) in that respect which I will try to convey to you a little later,—with an early future consideration of entitlement to class 12 (d) of such regulations. Needless to mention, this federation finds it somewhat difficult to express in words, our gratitude for the progressive and constructive veteran legislation in our favour, hitherto unknown in the history of British Canadian and allied domicility in Canada, or any other part of the world of Veteran Affairs. Our sincere thanks to the Canadian government, the Ministers of Veterans Affairs, and their colleagues.

Class 12(d) is an entitlement to hospitalization for the veteran who qualifies under twenty years' domicility, has also his hospital plan to join with that of his own, for example, if he is admitted to Sunnybrook for treatment.

2. By unanimous resolution at our general meeting, held December 16, 1951, in Hamilton, Ontario, fully supported by delegation from the army,