

Mr. CROLL: Before the committee rises may I express on behalf of the members of the committee our thanks to you, Mr. Chairman, for your energies, your efforts, your patience, and for the work which you have done in bringing about what we have been able to achieve on behalf of the veterans. We also want to thank General Burns and the members of his staff who have given so much of their time and who have been so helpful to us.

This committee has always carried on its work with one interest in mind. We have always been here to serve our constituents and particularly the veterans. We have built up legislation for them which we look upon as the best there is in the world and we shall continue to do so. I think this committee has been a fruitful one. It has advanced some new legislation and improved on some old legislation. It has been useful and helpful to the veterans of this country. I am sure that the House will appreciate the work we have done and in any event I want to thank you, Mr. Chairman, and the other members of the committee for having devoted themselves to this work in the interests of the veterans of this country.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Croll. It is always injudicious to invite any politician; particularly myself, to make a speech. I promise you I shall not be long. But there are one or two things I would like to say.

It has been a matter of more than ordinary pleasure and satisfaction to me to preside over this committee again. It is always difficult for me, from the chair, not to take more part in the discussions. But over the years I have learned a little in the way of restraint, and I sincerely hope that our deliberations have been profitable.

The things which were accomplished in this committee this year were not born of this committee but are part of the culmination of the work of years. In connection with that I would like to say to those who have come for the first time to a Veterans Affairs Committee, that this committee is unique among committees. For one thing, the general level of personal knowledge of the subject is, I think, higher in this committee than in any other committee in the House of Commons. Most of the members who speak have a pretty fair idea of what they are talking about. We are bound together in working for the welfare of former comrades.

It is an honour to have presided over this committee and I would like to say to those who have come from the different groups for the first time that they have seemed to appreciate the atmosphere of the committee and they have not persisted in making mistakes of the kind that some of us made in our first appearances here.

I do wish to thank you all for your co-operation and I hope our work will be of benefit to our comrades generally, and that it will encourage governments in the future.

Mr. BROOKS: Before we leave, I was wondering if the report of the committee will be referred to the House. I understand that it is usual.

The CHAIRMAN: You mean the *Hansard*?

Mr. BROOKS: Yes.

The CHAIRMAN: The *Hansard* of the committee is sent to the House with our last report.

Mr. BROOKS: I might also say, while I am on my feet, how much I agree with my friend David Croll, here, and I feel that our chairman has as usual done a very good job with the material that he had to work with. I think I would have to say that.

The CHAIRMAN: You fellows are too modest.

Mr. BROOKS: He has been a good chairman and we appreciate it very much.

The committee adjourned.