

*Pension Act*

**Mr. Quelch:** No.

**Mr. Cruickshank:** I am speaking on the point of order. I was ruled out of order, and I believe the hon. member for Royal (Mr. Brooks) was also ruled out of order in the same connection. I would like to speak on the same matter, but it must work both ways. I am not speaking against the hon. member's argument, but I do claim the right to say something along the same line as any other member in the opposition or otherwise.

**Mr. Quelch:** I would again point out that this is exactly the type of reference that the Speaker ruled would be in order.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Beaudoin):** I was in the house when the Speaker made his remarks. He did say that the War Veterans Allowance Act was not now before the house, and that any reference in passing to the War Veterans Allowance Act should be as brief as possible.

**Mr. Quelch:** I would point out, Mr. Speaker, that the pensioners receiving an award of from 20 to 40 per cent will not receive any benefits as a result of this legislation. When you get down below the pension award of 20 per cent, that is at the 15 per cent level, there will be a partial benefit of \$25 per annum. When you get below 15 per cent, from 5 per cent to 10 per cent, the pensioner will then be eligible to receive the full benefits of the pension award; but from 20 per cent to 40 per cent the pensioner will not receive any benefit at all.

In regard to the single veteran, a pensioner receiving an award of from 15 to 30 per cent will not be able to get any benefit whatsoever. Below 15 per cent—

**Mr. Lapointe:** No benefit under what?

**Mr. Quelch:** Below the 15 per cent they will get the full benefit of the award. In view of the fact that these are men who have very limited incomes, it does seem to me that we should have a section included in the legislation stating that any increase of any pension under this legislation shall not be considered income for the purpose of the War Veterans Allowance Act. That is all I am going to say—

**Mr. Mutch:** Order. We are back where we started.

**Mr. Knowles:** It is perfectly in order. The only trouble is the government has not put it in the bill.

**Mr. Quelch:** There is one other matter that I should like to refer to, namely dependent mothers. I was sorry to hear the minister say that dependent mothers would not

[Mr. Cruickshank.]

be eligible for any increase, because it does seem to me that where the mother is solely dependent upon her son, when that son is taken away she should receive the same consideration as the wife receives; I mean where the son is her sole support.

In closing I would say, as I have said in the past, that I believe that in this country generally speaking we have veterans legislation second to none. I think we are also fortunate in having officials who are very sympathetic towards the veterans, and who do not hesitate to bend over backwards in trying to give the full benefit of the doubt in dealing with all matters. I would like to see us at all times endeavour to amend legislation so these officials can give to veterans the greatest possible benefits without having to take a chance on having to bend backward.

**Mr. J. M. Macdonnell (Greenwood):** I just want to add a word. I think, as the previous speaker said, there is the unanimous feeling on this side of the house that in these days when our social conscience is rightly as aroused as it is, and when we are doing so much for other people in the community, these men who have a special claim must not in any degree be left behind. Therefore we welcome what is being done. I should like to endorse what has been said concerning the sympathy of the men in the department. All members of parliament have a good many cases coming to their attention. I have always found the greatest readiness to help on the part of veterans advocates and all others doing similar work.

I think we are most fortunate also in the officers of the Legion because, along with their desire to have everything done for the returned men, they do realize that there are limits, and I believe they try to take a common-sense view and have regard for what is possible as well as what is desirable.

Motion agreed to, and the house went into committee, Mr. Beaudoin in the chair.

Resolution reported, read the second time and concurred in.

**Mr. Lapointe** thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 27, to amend the Pension Act.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Beaudoin):** When shall the bill be read the second time?

**Mr. Fournier (Hull):** Next sitting.