

Comment:

For some years it has been obvious that recipients of war veterans allowance have been labouring under a serious difficulty because of the inadequacy of the amounts provided. We realize that our recommendation may in part be in excess of the provisions proposed. We are simply endeavouring to be realistic in assessing the needs, especially of the individual who is, because of age and/or incapacities, incapable of supplementing income through even casual earnings to any appreciable extent. These are the hardship cases for whom we bespeak your earnest consideration.

Recommendation No. 2:

That the total annual allowable income including war veterans allowance permitted under the War Veterans Allowance Act be the amount set as statutory exemptions under the Income Tax Act, subject to supplementation of \$200 in the case of the single man.

Comment:

We note with concern the means test limitations proposed by this bill for the single man is \$840 per annum. This would permit only \$120 per year or \$10 per month through income from earnings or other sources. We consider that the means test for the single man should be at least set at the level of \$1,200 which would permit \$480 of supplementation.

In the case of the married man who must maintain a home, however modest, we consider that it should be advanced proportionately and suggest again the statutory exemption in respect to income tax, namely \$2,000.

Recommendation No. 3:

That the recipients of war veterans allowance, upon qualifying for old age security, should receive the old age security, without reductions in the W.V.A., except insofar as the total income exceeds the total allowable income under the W.V.A. Act.

Comment:

Increasing age is generally attended by gradual reducing possibilities of supplementing allowance through casual earning. Therefore, the aging recipient of war veterans allowance who may have been able through his efforts to supplement and enjoy a few comforts will under the proposed provisions of this Act be reduced to the subsistence level of the war veterans allowance recipient who has never been able to supplement. The individual who has never been able to supplement has undoubtedly suffered hardships to which he may have become more or less reconciled. The individual who is forced to reduce his living standard by reason of age and more completely disabling physical capacities, experiences discouragement amounting to tragedy. It would seem only humane to permit the W.V.A. recipient to enjoy the old age security allowance, coupled with sufficient war veterans allowance to the total of permissible income from all sources.

VETERANS BENEFIT ACT, 1954:

Comment:

We heartily support the humanitarian administration of this Act to the end that those who have suffered and are dependants may be benefited notwithstanding restrictions actual or implied heretofore. The more generous intent of the amendment is greatly appreciated.