

*Veterans Benefit Act*

question that concerns all veterans today is the question of the War Veterans Allowance Act. Therefore, to set up that committee without allowing it to deal with that act would, in my opinion, be just a gesture. I hope the minister will be able to give assurance on that point. That is all I will say at this time.

**Mr. Howard C. Green (Vancouver-Quadra):** Mr. Speaker, there is just one thought I should like to place before the members of the house and particularly before the minister. As I understand this bill, it covers only those young Canadians who had gone to Korea before July 27, 1953, the date on which fighting stopped in that country.

No help of this kind is given to the men who have gone to Korea since that time or to the men who have gone with our forces to Germany at any time. None of them are eligible for these benefits. Of course, I am not advocating that the young men who have not been in the fighting should get the same benefits as those who have actually done fighting. But here we have a situation which has never before been faced by a Canadian parliament. We have thousands of our young men being asked to go as volunteers to serve either in Europe or in Asia for quite an extended period of time. Of necessity, that means that their establishment in life or their preparations for their lifework must be interrupted.

Probably most of them have gone out of a spirit of adventure. For them there is an attraction in getting abroad and seeing other parts of the world. But the point is that most of these men are not making the navy, the army or the air force their career; that is probably particularly true of the army and the air force. I believe it would be of great value to this nation if some provision were made whereby on their discharge from the forces, these young men could get either educational assistance or assistance with vocational training.

Last year I suggested some such plan to the minister with regard to the men in Germany. His reply was that these men had not been in a theatre of war, and therefore were not entitled to any benefits. I suggest that our thinking should be a little more advanced, and that we should make provision to help these young men. A few months ago I received a letter from a young lad serving in Germany, and I should like to quote part of the letter because it clearly shows the feeling of at least some of these young Canadians. He said:

The majority of ordinary ranks apply for release at the end of their engagements. Some just like their freedom—some like the prospect of high

wages, hoping to get good jobs with more pay. Very few go back to school because it takes money, and lots to do that.

More chaps would go to school if the government made it easy for them. In this way they would not be an unemployment problem. A lot of fellows went to university after the last war with D.V.A. help (example my elder brother—he got an engineering degree out of it). Canada will benefit in the long run.

There cannot be the slightest doubt that Canada benefited to a large extent by the training given to the young men who returned from the second world war. There never was a finer investment made by this country than the money put into helping with the training of those thousands of young Canadians. I believe that some such scheme should be started at this time for these other young Canadians who have volunteered for service outside the country, and are either with our forces in Korea or in Germany. If that provision were made, I think it would also be quite an inducement to young men to enlist, especially if they realized that when they came back they would be helped with their education. It would be helpful to the morale of those units serving away from Canada. These men must get lonesome and homesick, being away from this country for long periods during which they are serving, now without the excitement of actual fighting. I believe we would be well advised to work out some scheme now for helping them with their training when they return to Canada.

**Mr. Gordon Churchill (Winnipeg South Centre):** Any apparent confusion I am showing at the moment, Mr. Speaker, is due to the confused nature of the bill in front of us. It is another one of those omnibus bills because it refers to no fewer than ten acts. As a preliminary, may I say we welcome the statement of the minister that a special committee on veterans affairs will be appointed at this session. A demand has been put forward time and time again for a committee of that nature on a permanent basis. It is welcome to hear the news that such a committee will be set up, even on a temporary basis.

There is no question in anyone's mind that in the past the committees on veterans affairs have served a useful purpose indeed. The veterans of Canada have benefited from the work of these committees. The veterans legislation, which in many respects is of such a high order, has resulted from the work of the veterans committee and this house. I am sure there will be general agreement and pleasure that the minister has seen fit to make arrangements for the appointment of such a committee at this time. We hope that when the reference is given to that committee it will be all-inclusive, and will