

Mr. HOSKING: The members of our party have already seen officials of the department and have made our representations to the best of our ability. You know how far we have been able to persuade them to go. After having done that, we do not think there is any one in the committee who would expect us to vote on any measure which we know is going to kill this bill. We are in that position, and it should be made perfectly clear to these people what position we are in. We have already done what you suggested. They have gone as far as we can persuade them to go.

Mr. BENNETT (*Grey North*): In spite of what was done in a previous year, I submit that this committee cannot make a recommendation here involving the expenditure of money, even if the government were in favour of it. We still have to follow the procedure which we followed last year. Even if this committee in previous years did that, I submit, with great respect and being a greenhorn at the game, that you veterans—veteran parliamentarians, that is—were wrong in that case. Since there is an expenditure of money involved, we must pass the bill and make a recommendation when we report it. I think that is clear.

With regard to General Pearkes's point that the government did not know about the Legion's brief—the Legion has been pressing for a ceiling of \$1,200 and a ceiling of \$2,000 for some time. The Legion made representations to the government, to the Prime Minister and to the minister, and I can assure you that this War Veterans Allowance Act has been studied by the minister, by the government and by the departmental officials for a long time, with the object in view of doing their best for the older veterans. I think we should say "thank you" to the minister for getting this bill, which I think is a generous bill, because it added an additional expenditure of \$9,500,000 at a time when, as we all know, governmental revenues are down and we are having trouble balancing the budget. I do not think that the veterans in my riding are any different from the veterans in other places. I have four Legion branches in my riding, and I have not heard from any of them. In fact, when I go home, the veterans thank me for this bill, and they tell me that it is a generous bill. They say, "We thought we would get a small raise, but did not expect a 20 per cent raise". I have not had a telegram or a letter about it. I think we should pass this bill and get it into effect, so that these veterans can obtain this raise right away and not two months from now.

Mr. HANNA: I should like to speak along the same lines as the two previous members of the committee who have spoken. First of all, I compliment the Legion and other veterans organizations for having given this matter very serious study and having continually kept these veterans in mind. They have the sympathetic understanding of every member of this committee, no matter to which party he belongs, but I think that even the Legion would realize that all members of this committee have been after the government to do something for war veterans' allowance recipients. At least I know that that has been the case since I have been here. As a matter of fact, in my own case, it has come to the point that when the Minister of Veterans Affairs saw me he would almost seem to avoid me because I was always bringing up the matter of war veterans' allowances, or at least I felt that that was his attitude. Now we have a bill before us which, I think, is quite generous. I also think, Mr. Chairman, that there has been considerable misunderstanding about this matter of the ceilings. We have ceilings in this bill, and I think that the minister was probably a little modest in talking about ceilings of \$840 a year for single veterans and widows and \$1,440 a year for married veterans. From my study of the bill, I should say that those are not really ceilings Mr. Chairman; they are floors. They are not maximum incomes for needy veterans; they are minimums. The other day I asked what a needy veteran who had no