

Newfoundland veterans if we went into confederation tomorrow. That is all I wanted, the truth.

Mr. Ashbourne Mr. Chairman, that is what I am trying to get at, the truth. I am not here to give anything except the truth as I find it here. I see here that Newfoundland veterans who served in World War II will be eligible for these benefits as specified in the terms.

Mr. Hollett What benefits?

Mr. Ashbourne Benefits under the Veterans' Land Act.

Mr. Hollett Read it in full.

Mr. Ashbourne "Under Canadian law Newfoundland veterans who served in His Majesty's Canadian forces in World War II would, by reason of their new standing as Canadian citizens, be eligible for use of re-establishment credits."

Mr. Hollett I was saying, these veterans who served in British or Newfoundland forces, as the case may be. When they were serving with the Canadian forces they were Canadians.

Mr. Hickman They won't come in under it. It is only those who served in the Canadian army or the Canadian navy. Those who served in our two regiments overseas or the Home Defence, are not eligible for the benefits under the re-establishment plan.

Mr. Hollett That is all I want. If the delegation would satisfy us and the country on that.

Mr. Hickman Mr. Chairman, I think in general, I have been talking to some veterans who have gone into this, there does not seem to be, in their opinion, there does not seem to be very much difference between the Canadian act and our own. There might have been a greater discharge or demobilisation pay from Canada, but that has been already availed of, and they would not get any extra or back pay. That is settled and done with. You have a period, I don't know how long it is, 18 months or something, to avail of your transition, or to take any vocational training. In Canada that is somewhat longer. On the other hand where the Canadian taking a course, attending university is allowed, I don't know whether it is \$60 or \$80 a month while they are there, the Newfoundland act here allows either \$10 or \$20 a month more, but there is not a great difference in the whole thing. As I understand it it is pretty well identical, and those pensions that Mr.

Northcott was asking about, that is the same thing as he quoted for Newfoundland, it is the same thing in Canada.

Mr. Smallwood Mr. Chairman, we have here the public accounts of the Government of Canada for last year, and I have opened at the page which shows the Department of Veterans' Affairs, which shows the expenditures made. The expenditure last year \$401,707,964.26 or roughly \$402 million. Now there are some sub-headings of that, for example....

Mr. Hollett Mr. Chairman, it is not a point of order, and I don't want to interrupt Mr. Smallwood, but I fail to see how these huge figures of payments in Canada are going to give any benefit to us here. It seems to me it is just a waste of time.

Mr. Smallwood Someone just asked how much was being spent, and I was hoping as I read these that whoever asked it would come across the items for which he asked. And so it goes on for 30 or 40 pages. I would not dream of reading them all. One million for this and three million for that, 30 or 40 million for something else, and the total expenditure is \$400 million odd, spent by the Government of Canada for the year.

Mr. Chairman The point is whether or not the re-establishment credits on page 76 are not excluded from Newfoundlanders who served during the war in branches of the services other than the Canadian services under the note or exceptions to section 2. I read section 2 as applying to Newfoundland veterans, but in addition, under Canadian law, Newfoundland veterans who served with them in World War II, will, by reason of their new status as Canadian citizens, be eligible for use of re-establishment credits on the same basis as other Canadian veterans. But the point raised by Mr. Hollett and Mr. Hickman is that these re-establishment credits set forth on page 76, volume 2 of the Black Book, would not apply to Newfoundland veterans who did not serve in the Canadian forces during World War II.

Mr. Smallwood All that would be entitled to that would be Newfoundlanders who served in the Canadian forces.

Mr. Chairman That is the point.

Mr. Higgins These clauses on pages 72 to 94, we don't have to actually read them, you merely say "Do they apply or don't they?" I think it might be clearer then.