

Oral Questions

[Translation]

BANKRUPTCY ACT

PRESENTATION OF AMENDING

Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the hon. Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

In view of the promise made to us in the House many years ago—I raised the matter on many occasions—of a thorough reform of the Bankruptcy Act, could the hon. minister tell us whether a really thorough reform will be carried out, and not merely “reformattes” such as we have had so far?

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, we are working on such a reform in the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and the government will decide when we can introduce this new bill in the House.

[English]

Mr. Baldwin: We have been waiting three years.

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OLD AGE SECURITY

INQUIRY AS TO INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO INCREASE BENEFITS

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare based on his speech last Thursday which I am still carefully analysing. Can he say whether the proposed “non-token” increase in the old age pension will be brought forward in the House before the dominion-provincial conference of welfare ministers, and can he indicate what “non-token” really means?

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, the increase referred to will be put before the House long before the federal-provincial conference scheduled for April.

[English]

Mr. Macquarrie: Mr. Speaker, can the minister indicate whether the legislation is now ready and when he intends to put it on the order paper?

[Translation]

Mr. Lalonde: This legislation will soon be brought before the House, Mr. Speaker. I think that pensioners and older people will be very happy with the results.

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[English]

VETERANS AFFAIRS

INQUIRY AS TO LEGISLATION TO INCREASE ALLOWANCES AND DISABILITY PENSIONS

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister

of Veterans Affairs. In view of the fact the increase in the cost of living has an effect on the fixed incomes of veterans receiving war veterans allowances and disability pensions, and in view of the fact there was no mention in the throne speech in respect of veterans, will the minister advise the House and the country what plans he has for legislation on behalf of this segment of our society?

Hon. Daniel J. MacDonald (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I can inform the hon. member that when we deal with the other legislative item in respect of pensions it will be related as well to veterans legislation and their pensions will be increased accordingly.

WAR VETERANS ALLOWANCES—REQUEST THAT ANY INCREASE NOT BE CHARGED AGAINST SOCIAL ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question I should like to direct to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the fact some veterans with fixed incomes and large families have had to resort to social assistance to supplement their incomes, would the minister bring forth for consideration at the federal-provincial conference the suggestion that increases in war veterans allowances should not be charged against social assistance payments?

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, the whole question of social benefits will be reviewed. We are considering a complete review of the whole social security system with the provinces and I am sure the problem raised by the hon. member will be discussed at those conferences.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I will recognize the hon. member for Calgary North for one or more supplementary questions and then the hon. member for Saskatoon-Biggar.

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

REQUEST THAT PRIORITY BE GIVEN TO ECONOMIC MEASURES OVER CAPITAL PUNISHMENT DEBATE

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, in light of the answers given by various ministers in respect of pension remedies to assist people at a time of high cost of living, continually increasing from day to day, would the Prime Minister consider setting aside the debate on capital punishment as a priority and take up the economic measures so important to the livelihood of Canadians?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I may have missed the meaning of the hon. member's request, but I will look at his question. For my own part, I would find it difficult to answer the question without