

● (1450)

VETERANS AFFAIRS

EFFECT OF FAILURE TO INCREASE CEILING ON CASUAL EARNINGS OF THOSE DRAWING ALLOWANCES

Mr. Joe Flynn (Kitchener): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Veterans Affairs. When considering the matter of the present ceilings on the casual earnings of veterans drawing war veterans' allowances, would the minister look into the possibility that the delay in raising the \$1,500 ceiling on casual earnings actually reduces the monthly allowance paid to veterans on war veterans allowances?

Hon. Daniel J. MacDonald (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, we had discussions the other day and the answer is still the same. The department is looking into this. We hope to be able to do some work on it in the near future and have it processed before too long.

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HEALTH

ALLEGED DANGER FROM RED FOOD DYES—REQUEST FOR REPORT ON DEPARTMENTAL STUDY

Mr. Heward Grafftey (Brome-Missisquoi): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Little more than two months ago the hon. member for Grey-Simcoe asked the minister if any conclusions had been reached concerning the danger from red food dyes in our foodstuffs. The minister replied that his department was considering in detail the studies made in the United States. I now ask the minister what has been the result of his department's study of the danger of red dyes in foodstuffs? What conclusions have been arrived at concerning this matter?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether the hon. member has taken cognizance of the press release issued by me on February 2 on this particular subject. It was a nine-page press release which went into this issue extensively. I can only report to the hon. member that the conclusions expressed by my department in that press release have not changed.

Mr. Grafftey: Mr. Speaker, I have read the press release.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

An hon. Member: You are one up on your colleagues.

Mr. Grafftey: I am not interested in press releases; however, I am interested in answers to questions by the minister in the House of Commons.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Grafftey: He was asked in the House to reply in the House and tell what dangers were identified in the study into these red dye in foodstuffs. Would he reply in the House and tell us what the general conclusions were?

Oral Questions

Mr. Lalonde: Mr. Speaker, I am not asking the hon. member to be interested in press releases but in their content.

An hon. Member: Don't be smart!

Mr. Lalonde: If he went to the trouble of reading it, he would not need to ask the question. It is all there, he can read it if he wants. I would say that the concern expressed by the United States authorities was not substantiated by the available scientific evidence.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CANADIAN CONTRIBUTION TO COMMON FUND ESTABLISHED AT UNCTAD CONFERENCE—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Secretary of State for External Affairs I should like to address my question to his parliamentary secretary or to the Prime Minister. In view of the fact that on Monday the Secretary General of the Commonwealth referred to the common fund as essential to the success of the UNCTAD conference in Nairobi, and in view of the fact that the OPEC nations have now made a large commitment of money for the common fund, I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether Canada is now in a position to make a specific commitment and contribution to the common fund?

[Translation]

Miss Monique Bégin (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member who attended, I believe, the opening of the UNCTAD negotiations knows that Canada naturally approved in principle the setting up of a common fund. As for the details on participation to the fund, I shall be glad to inquire about them from the department; in any event, it would be more appropriate, if only because of my voice, for me to answer tomorrow.

[English]

Mr. Nystrom: Mr. Speaker, may I try a supplementary and say it is the money I want, not the voice. May I ask the parliamentary secretary whether the department is aware that in the opinion of many of those at the conference, if the common fund is not adequately supported, not only the UNCTAD conference but the north/south conference at Paris of which Canada is one of the chairmen, is in danger of breaking down?

Miss Bégin: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member will not get the money, it will go to the Third World countries! He knows very well the concern of the Secretary of State for External Affairs, who represents the Canadian government, and he knows the minister is going to use every platform to promote that idea both at the north/south conference in June and in Nairobi now through our officials there.