

Motions for Papers

2. The Department of Veterans Affairs provides an annual grant of \$9,000 to the Dominion Command Royal Canadian Legion. The purpose of this grant is to assist the Royal Canadian Legion in the administrative costs associated with the operation of the Legion Service Bureau.

3. Yes. Through departmental participation at zone, provincial and national Royal Canadian Legion conventions and through regular contact between Branch Legion Service Bureau officers and departmental field representatives, considerable insight is gained on local concerns regarding national programs. Department of Veterans Affairs Regional and District offices have a continuing responsibility to maintain good liaison with the Royal Canadian Legion and all veterans organizations in their area.

[English]

Mr. Hopkins: Mr. Speaker, I ask that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.

Mr. McKinnon: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order once again to ask when the Parliamentary Secretary will be able to provide a reply to Question No. 368, which deals with the increase in the defence budget for each fiscal year from 1970-71 to 1979-80.

I would like to point out that that question is now three years out of date because it has been over three years since I asked the question. There is no reason in the world that the Department of National Defence cannot produce the answer to that question. A long line of Parliamentary Secretaries have promised they would do something about it. I hope forever that each new one, as he comes along, may indeed fulfil his promise.

Mr. Hopkins: Mr. Speaker, the representation has been noted.

Mr. Speaker: The question as enumerated by the Parliamentary Secretary have been answered. Shall the remaining questions be allowed to stand?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

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MOTIONS FOR PAPERS

Mr. Leonard Hopkins (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I ask that all notices of motions for the production of papers be allowed to stand.

Mr. Speaker: Shall notices of motions for the production of papers stand?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

INSOLVENCY ACT**MEASURE TO ESTABLISH**

Hon. Judy Erola (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs) moved that Bill C-17, an Act respecting bankruptcy and insolvency, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs.

She said: Mr. Speaker, the House is now asked to proceed with the second reading of an extremely important piece of legislation and to refer it to committee. As I am sure Hon. Members know, the proposed revamping of our bankruptcy and insolvency legislation has been in the making for quite a number of years, long before I came to the House. In fact, it has been some 18 years, depending upon when one started counting.

Although Bill C-17 is the sixth Bill on bankruptcy presented to Parliament, it is the first time that, as current sponsor of this particular Bill, I have the opportunity to address the House on it. In the previous session of this Parliament, a predecessor Bill, Bill C-12, was well under way. Second reading had taken place in the House, with an extensive explanation of the content of the Bill given by my predecessor, who is now the Minister of Labour (Mr. Ouellet). Good, substantial speeches were made at that time by Hon. Members on both sides of the House.

The Bill was finally referred to the House Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs late in September, 1983. The Finance Committee was quick to start its study of the Bill. On October 25, I was the first witness. Soon thereafter, departmental officials were heard. The committee was then poised to start hearing from some of the numerous associations which had expressed interest in the Bill. Unfortunately, before it could do so, the first session of the present Parliament came to an end and Bill C-12 died on the Order Paper.

I think it would be a shame, Mr. Speaker, if the unbelievable amount of work done to date were to come to nothing. I am very pleased that I was able to re-introduce the Bill as soon as possible in the present session, on January 31. That is the Bill now before us. Unfortunately, it did not move too quickly because there was no agreement at that time from the New Democratic Party to bring it forward. That agreement has now been reached as a result of some very effective work done in committee the other day, and we now have the Bill before us.

I do not intend to speak at length on the content of the Bill because I stand behind everything my predecessor said in the House on May 19, 1981 when he spoke on second reading of Bill C-12. With the co-operation of Hon. Members on the other side, I am anxious for the Bill to go before the Finance Committee for a good public debate to take place there on the many concepts contained in the Bill. I am told that the steering committee is already poised to move in this direction as soon as the Bill clears the House.