

VETERANS AFFAIRS

IMPLEMENTATION OF REPORT ON PENSION COMMISSION

On the orders of the day:

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Queens): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Veterans Affairs I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether the government is prepared to take early action to implement those recommendations of the Woods report, such as the recommendations in respect of increasing veterans pensions and the remodelling of the procedures of appeal, which would receive widespread approval.

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, we are studying the report. I read it over last week end. I agree that some of the recommendations should be implemented quickly, and I hope steps will be taken to that end.

Mr. MacLean (Queens): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Prime Minister whether the government would be prepared to refer the report to the committee on veterans affairs, so the remaining parts could be dealt with expeditiously and action taken.

Mr. Pearson: I believe this is a very reasonable suggestion and I will mention it to the minister.

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF PROPOSED PRICES REVIEW BOARD

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the right hon. Prime Minister, who has just tabled the correspondence with the provincial premiers with regard to the proposed prices review board. In the light of this exchange of correspondence and the visits by officials of the federal government to the various provinces last week, I should like to ask whether the Prime Minister is now in a position to tell us anything about the terms of reference. Have they been drafted, and will they be made available to members of the house?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, we have received four or five replies from the provinces. There are not more than five. The officials who have been visiting the provinces have now visited all the provinces; I believe they visited the last one yesterday. We received an interim report

Inquiries of the Ministry

from them last week and will be receiving the final report over the week end. I believe it should be possible to make progress with good speed and report to the house when it reconvenes on April 23.

Mr. Douglas: Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Prime Minister whether any contacts are being established with organizations other than the provinces. Are any discussions going on with management, labour, farm organizations or consumers organizations regarding these terms of reference?

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, we thought we should obtain the reaction from the provincial governments first, but steps are now being taken to invite to Ottawa representatives of the various organizations, including the trade union organizations, which would be particularly concerned with this matter. It is hoped that it will be possible to have meetings with them beginning next week.

[Translation]

INQUIRIES OF THE MINISTRY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Roland Godin (Portneuf): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Prime Minister.

Could he tell us if the municipal authorities in Hull have informed the government of their financial difficulties and, if so, can the city hope for loans similar to those granted to Jamaica at an interest rate of $\frac{3}{4}$ of 1 per cent?

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member for Okanagan-Revelstoke.

[Translation]

Mr. Godin: Mr. Speaker, may I ask a supplementary question?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member might want to ask another question because the first one was out of order.

[English]

Mr. Ed. Schreyer (Springfield): Mr. Speaker, I see that the Postmaster General is in the house. I should like to direct my question to him. Has he asked for a ruling from his officials to determine whether third class mail, or junk mail as it is popularly called, covers or includes the books and other paraphernalia being mailed out by Liberal leadership candidates?