

finalised its five-year accelerated coverage plan whose object is to bring radio and television coverage to all unserved communities in Canada with populations of 500 or more, may I ask whether this plan has been submitted to the Secretary of State and to the cabinet for consideration and approval?

Hon. James Hugh Faulkner (Secretary of State): It has been submitted to me, but it has not yet been submitted to Cabinet.

Mr. Nesdoly: Bearing in mind the fact that many urban areas are getting all kinds of media coverage, including a planned extension of FM radio and the CBC, may I ask when the people who live in the rural areas, especially of the north, can expect a decision to be reached on this matter, one which has been hanging fire for the last six or eight months while the government has been sitting on its fanny?

Mr. Faulkner: That is a lot of nonsense, Mr. Speaker. The fact is that as the hon. member will see, when we come forward with the accelerated coverage plan, there are inherent problems in it. I attach a great deal of importance to this undertaking. I have said so in the hon. member's constituency, and I am proceeding with it as rapidly as possible.

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FLOODS

HIGH WATER LEVELS ON GREAT LAKES—CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR USE OF ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL—NEED FOR REQUEST FROM PROVINCE

Mr. Sean O'Sullivan (Hamilton-Wentworth): Mr. Speaker, I should like to return to the Minister of National Defence for the purpose of clarifying one of his earlier answers. The minister told us he had been in touch with officials of the Emergency Measures Organization of the Province of Ontario. Can he tell us whether there are contingency plans for the use of the forces available to the Department of National Defence, and of expert services, and that the only thing needed to put those plans into operation is a formal request from the Province of Ontario?

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence): Yes, Mr. Speaker, that is correct.

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PUBLIC SERVICE

ARBITRATION AWARD TO NURSES IN YUKON AND NORTHWEST TERRITORIES—REQUEST FOR RE-OPENING OF NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare in his capacity as minister of health for the Yukon, a question which also affects him in his capacity as minister of health for the Northwest Territories. Has he today received a telegram from various nursing stations, hospitals and health centres throughout the Yukon

Canada Pension Plan

requesting negotiations for the purpose of relieving the nurses from the imposition of the disgustingly low arbitral award they have received under his department?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): I have received various telegrams in the course of the last week but I have not seen the telegrams received today.

Mr. Nielsen: Will the minister assure the nurses and their organizations in these northern communities that negotiations will be recommenced for the purpose of coming to a more realistic settlement?

Mr. Lalonde: I will assure the nurses and the hon. member that my department is greatly concerned about the welfare and health of all the people in the Northwest Territories and the Yukon. We hope that the laws of parliament and Canada will be obeyed.

Mr. Speaker: Order. There are a number of members wishing to ask supplementaries. We have reached the end of the question period, but perhaps the House might allow the hon. member for Kingston and the Islands to ask her supplementary before Orders of the Day are called.

ARBITRATION AWARD TO NURSES—REQUEST FOR MEETING WITH MINISTERS

Miss Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): In view of the current salary crisis affecting nurses throughout the whole of the federal civil service, would the minister undertake, along with his colleagues, the Minister of Veterans Affairs and the Solicitor General, to meet personally with representatives of these nurses to discuss the arbitral award and the salaries paid to them which placed them in a lower salary bracket than their counterparts outside the federal service?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): I will check as to whether I have received such a request. I am sure my colleague the Minister of Veterans Affairs and I, myself, will be available, as usual, to all groups for whom we are responsible and who want to see us. I wish to stress, however, that the level of remuneration and the question of salaries is not my responsibility, nor is it that of the Minister of Veterans Affairs.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

CANADA PENSION PLAN

CONTRIBUTIONS OF MEMBERS OF CERTAIN RELIGIOUS SECTS, INTEREST RATE ON DELAYED PAYMENTS, PAYMENT OF LEGAL EXPENSES

The House proceeded to the consideration of Bill C-190, to amend the Canada Pension Plan, as reported (without amendment) from the Standing Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs.