

inform government cheque recipients of a change in the format of the cheques.

3. Nil.

CANADIAN PENSION COMMISSION—DISABILITY PENSIONS

Question No. 140—**Mr. Forrestall:**

1. As of December 15, 1972 (a) how many applications for disability pensions had been received by the Canadian Pension Commission (b) how many applications for appeal of decisions made by the Canadian Pension Commission on applications for disability pensions had been received by the commission (c) how many applications for disability pensions (i) had completed statements of case prepared for adjudication by the commission (ii) had been refused by the commission (iii) had been approved, either wholly or partially, by the commission (d) how many applications for appeal of decisions had been decided by the Canadian Pension Commission?

2. What is the total number of cases either under appeal or not yet decided upon by the commission as of December 30, 1972?

3. Is the government intending to increase the number of support staff for the commission to speed up the adjudication and preparation for adjudication of applications or appeals of decisions and, if so, on what date?

**Hon. Daniel J. MacDonald (Minister of Veterans Affairs):** Statistics shown in the following answers cover the period from March 30, 1971, the effective date of the extensive amendments to the Pension Act, to December 24, 1972, the cut off date for preparation of monthly pension statistical returns. 1. (a) On March 30, 1971 there were 2,497 applications for disability pension before the commission. This included approximately 900 Appeal Board applications which had been pending and which were held for consideration as first applications under the more liberal provisions of the revised Pension Act. Between March 30, 1971 and December 24, 1972 an additional 15,412 applications for disability pensions were received; (b) Between March 30, 1971 and December 24, 1972, the commission received 2,108 applications for appeal of decisions on applications for entitlement to disability pensions; (c) (i) Statements of case are required only in respect of applications for appeal to Entitlement Boards of the commission. 1,515 applications for disability pension which had been turned down in whole or in part have had Statements of Case prepared for consideration by Entitlement Boards; (ii) Between March 30, 1971 and December 24, 1972, 7,515 applications for disability pension were refused by the commission at the first level. (See Note); (iii) Between March 30, 1971 and December 24, 1972 4,422 applications for disability pensions were approved by the commission, either wholly or partially, at the first level. (See Note); Note: the number of applications shown as refused in (c) (ii) above and approved in (c) (iii) above are totals of decisions tabulated separately in respect of periods of service in World War I, World War II, Korea and Peacetime Service. Some applicants had claims in respect of more than one period of service. (d) Between March 30, 1971 and December 24, 1972, 576 applications for appeal of entitlement decisions were decided by Entitlement Boards of the commission. Of this number 244 were wholly or partially allowed and 332 were disallowed. In addition 257 appeals on quantum of awards were decided as a result of personal appearances before

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two Commissioners under section 67 of the Pension Act. Of these 111 were wholly or partially allowed and 146 were disallowed.

2. As of December 24, 1972 there were 9,591 applications for disability pension awaiting a decision of the Commission at the first level. In addition there were 1,532 appeals to Entitlement Boards of the commission not yet decided on. Of these 1,532 cases, 382 have been heard or are listed for hearings in the near future; 557 are awaiting certification by the applicant or his representative that he is ready to proceed with the hearing; and 593 are awaiting preparation of Statements of Case.

3. An increase in the support staff of the commission has been approved. The additional staff is being hired and trained as rapidly as possible on a priority basis.

TOLL FREE TELEPHONE CALLS

Question No. 151—**Mr. Forrestall:**

1. Is it the intention of the government to give active consideration to issuing, where it has the authority to do so, instructions which would permit constituents to call the Ottawa office of a Member of Parliament toll free?

2. Is the government doing so now?

3. What would be required to effect such a decision, in the way of authorization?

[Translation]

**Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Minister of Communications):** Insofar as the Department of Communications is concerned: 1. The matter as to whether or not the government intends to issue instructions that would provide for constituents to call the Ottawa office of a Member of Parliament toll free is one for consideration by the Committee on Internal Economy and approval by the Speaker of the House of Commons since it is within their purview and responsibility.

2. See above.

3. The Sergeant-at-Arms would be required to authorize the Government Telecommunications Agency to provide the necessary leased telecommunications services on a reimbursable basis, including nominal overhead charges, in order to provide for constituents to call the Ottawa office of an M. P. toll free.

[English]

CMHC—MORTGAGE INSURANCE CLAIMS

Question No. 212—**Mr. Gilbert:**

How many properties were acquired by Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation under Section 8 of the National Housing Act for every hundred mortgaged loans insured by CMHC, in each of the past five calendar years, distributed according to family income groups of the borrower (\$1,000 interval with no cutoff)?

**Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of State for Urban Affairs):** See following table. Data on family income of borrowers at the time of mortgage foreclosure are not available.