

PENSIONS

SUGGESTED USE OF COST OF LIVING BASE

On the orders of the day:

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Prime Minister. In the review of the various social security and allowance programs which the government is carrying out, will the principle be adopted of basing federal pensions and allowances on the actual cost of living?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I wonder whether the hon. member would not agree that the question as asked is very wide in scope and should not be asked in those terms at this time.

INDIAN AFFAIRS

COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ACT

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, in view of the plans being made relating to consultations in connection with the Indian Act, would the Prime Minister make arrangements to ensure the organization of the appropriate standing committee of the house on Indian affairs and northern development and, particularly, would he use his good offices to see that a draft of the proposed amendments to the Indian Act is placed before the committee for consideration so that the committee could give full consideration to the members of the house participating in these consultations?

Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I would be glad to take that up with the house leader.

FISHERIES

GREAT LAKES—ESTIMATE OF DAMAGE FROM POLLUTION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. P. V. Noble (Grey-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct this question to the Minister of Fisheries. Has the government any plans to do the necessary research so an estimate can be made of the damage being done to great lakes fisheries by pollution?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, we have some information in the Department of Fisheries and more is being collected in co-operation with other departments of the federal government.

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Noble: May I ask a supplementary question? When can we expect a report to the house on this matter? It is assuming quite serious proportions.

Mr. Davis: Soon, I hope, Mr. Speaker.

NORTHERN AFFAIRS

WHITE PAPER ON DEVELOPMENT OF RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. In view of the statement made by him in Yellowknife recently, can he tell the house whether the government has now changed its policy and abandoned the idea of tabling a white paper on the development of responsible government for the Yukon and Northwest Territories?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, during my visit to Yellowknife, after discussing with members of the Territories council, I told them that it might not be necessary to prepare a White Paper on the constitutional future of the Northwest Territories. I have not discussed the same problem concerning the Yukon Territory, and I intend to meet the Yukon Territorial council during the week end to find out about their particular problem.

[*English*]

Mr. Nielsen: May I ask a supplementary question? Is it, then, government policy that the idea of the white paper has been abandoned?

[*Translation*]

Mr. Chrétien: No, Mr. Speaker.

[*English*]

Mr. Nielsen: My supplementary question is to the Prime Minister. In view of the communication he has received from members or a member of the Yukon legislative council with regard to participation of the elected representatives in the federal-provincial conference, can he say whether or not government policy will allow such representation at the forthcoming conference?

Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the minister just indicated there would be a white paper on this matter.