

Inquiries of the Ministry

This record contains a great many innuendoes and insinuations that Mr. Norman was a communist. We knew all about these charges which were made years ago in Washington, as a result of which Mr. Norman was subjected, in his own interests and in the public interest and with his own approval and full co-operation, to a special and exhaustive security check, the results of which were announced in two press releases by our department on August 9, 1951, and August 24, 1951.

As a result of that check, Mr. Speaker, our confidence in Mr. Norman's loyalty was not weakened in any respect. Nothing he has done since has affected—unless to increase—the confidence we have in him as a devoted, efficient and loyal official of the government, who is doing extremely important work at a very difficult post in a way which commanded my wholehearted admiration and deserves my full support. These slanders and unsupported insinuations against him contained in this United States senatorial sub-committee report we can treat with the contempt they deserve.

VETERANS AFFAIRS**CORRECTION OF C.B.C. NEWS REPORT RESPECTING INCREASE IN PENSION**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Elmore Philpott (Vancouver South): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of National Revenue. Is the minister aware of a serious error in the eleven o'clock C.B.C. television news report last night, in which it was inaccurately stated that the budget provides increases in war veterans pensions of \$6 a month? Will the C.B.C. take steps to correct that mistake today and let all disabled war veterans know that the increase for a total disability pensioner is actually from \$170 to \$200 a month?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I do not think this is the type of question that should be asked of the government. The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre.

INQUIRY AS TO INCREASE IN ALLOWANCE FOR SINGLE RECIPIENTS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Finance. Can the minister say whether it is true that no increase is to be provided for single recipients of war veterans allowance?

Hon. Hugues Lapointe (Minister of Veterans Affairs): There has been no increase in the rate of the single recipient of war

[Mr. Pearson.]

veterans allowance; there is a raise in the ceiling on permissible income; but I might point out that the rate is \$60 at the present time, which was the amount asked for by the veterans organizations.

CANADA ELECTIONS ACT**REDUCTION IN VOTING AGE DUE TO BUDGET CONCESSIONS TO CHILDREN**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. Is it the intention of the government to introduce legislation at this session to reduce the voting age to 13 years in view of the removal of the tax on chocolate bars, soft drinks and chewing gum?

Mr. Pickersgill: That was asked last night.

Mr. Knowles: And we got no answer.

Hon. W. E. Harris (Minister of Finance): I know the question is half facetious, but I would point out that chocolate is considered a food by adults as well.

Mr. Sinclair: And bubble gum also.

PENSIONS**REQUEST FOR INCREASE IN PENSIONS OF SUPERANNUATED FEDERAL CIVIL SERVANTS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Minister of Finance a question. Is the government still considering doing something at this session for retired civil servants?

Hon. W. E. Harris (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the retired civil servants do benefit by the increase in the old age pension announced last night, if they are within the age limits referred to, and most of them are; but to answer the question directly, the answer is yes, we are giving consideration to all these questions and will continue to do so.

POULTRY**TURKEYS—STATEMENT ON REPORTED IMPORTATION FROM U.S. UNDER CANADIAN BRAND NAME**

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. J. G. Gardiner (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, yesterday the hon. member for Brant-Haldimand asked me this question:

Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Agriculture a question. Is the minister aware that a Canadian company is importing from the United States turkeys packaged under a Canadian brand name?