

## OUTSTANDING DISABILITY PENSION CLAIMS

**Question No. 962—Mr. Howie:**

1. As of November 1, 1976, how many veterans had cases pending decision or awaiting a hearing before the Pension Commission?
2. How many of these veterans were residents of New Brunswick?

**Hon. Daniel J. MacDonald (Minister of Veterans Affairs):**

1. At November 1, 1976 there were 2,776 claims by veterans or their surviving dependants at first decision level awaiting adjudication. In addition, there were 5,024 cases in which a first decision had been rendered but in which the applicant was dissatisfied and requested an Entitlement Board hearing to determine eligibility for pension. Of these, 2,291 are awaiting preparation of the statement of case in the manner and form required by the Pension Act. In 1,328 cases the statements of case have been prepared and are in the hands of the Avocate and/or the applicant, for certification by the applicant that he is ready to proceed with the hearing. The hearing cannot be held until the certification is received. There are 1,405 claims which have been certified as ready to be heard. There are 818 cases where the pensioner has appealed the Commission decision as to the amount of the assessment of his disability and has requested a formal hearing as to quantum by two members of the Commission. Of these, 167 cases are awaiting certification of readiness to proceed by the applicant or Advocate, 197 cases are listed as ready to be heard.

2. Statistics are not maintained concerning the province of origin of applications at first decision level. However, at November 1, 1976 there were 344 applications from New Brunswick, for a hearing by an Entitlement Board or as to quantum by two Members of the Commission. Of this number 162 claims are in the process of having documentation prepared in the manner and form required by the Pension Act. In 98 cases the documentation has been referred to the applicant, usually through his Advocate and the Commission is waiting the applicant's notice that he is ready to proceed with the hearing. Eighty-four cases are ready to be heard.

## OUTSTANDING WAR VETERANS ALLOWANCE CLAIMS

**Question No. 963—Mr. Howie:**

How many veterans have cases (a) pending (b) awaiting a decision or hearing to determine (i) eligibility (ii) amount of benefit for the War Veterans Allowance and, of these, how many were residents of New Brunswick?

**Hon. Daniel J. MacDonald (Minister of Veterans Affairs):**

	(a)		(b)	
	(i)	(ii)	(i)	(ii)
National	1,501	5,393	235	523
New Brunswick	85	35	None	None

*Order Paper Questions*

## IRVING CASE—LEGAL FEES

**Question No. 1,027—Mr. Howie:**

1. How much money was paid to date, for the prosecution of the Irving interests under the Combines Investigation Act, exclusive of departmental personnel and to whom was it paid?
2. Was the cost of travel outside of Canada in connection with this case paid to any departmental personnel and, if so, to (a) how many persons (b) what destinations?

**Hon. A. C. Abbott (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** 1. William L. Hoyt, Q.C., \$174,335 (fees and disbursements); T. Joseph Scanlon (Consultant), \$12,467 (fees and disbursements); Winnifred Johnston (Witness); \$630; Total, \$187,432.

2. (a) Two. (b) One to Washington and one to Bermuda.

## AIR MAIL LETTERS

**Question No. 1,039—Mr. Clarke (Vancouver Quadra):**

1. Do airmail letters sent from Europe to Vancouver take from ten to sixteen days to reach the receiver and was the average time last year from four to six days and, if so, what action, if any, is planned to improve the service?
2. Is mail from Britain to Vancouver shipped first to Montreal or Toronto before being shipped to Vancouver and, if so, for what reason?
3. Does the government intend to route outgoing mail from Vancouver to Europe via Toronto or Montreal instead of shipping the mail directly from Vancouver and, if so, for what reason?
4. If mail is handled first at Montreal or Toronto, then again at Vancouver (a) are there more employees involved in handling the mail than if it was sent to Vancouver directly (b) considering the wages paid to post office employees at both locations, is the total cost of handling the mail greater than if the mail was shipped directly to Vancouver and, if so, how does the government explain this excessive expenditure?
5. Does overseas airmail receive lower priority in sorting than third-class domestic mail and, if so, for what reason?
6. Have expenditures on machinery in the postal system resulted in a reduction of staff?

**Hon. J.-J. Blais (Postmaster General):** 1. Some airmail letters from Europe to Vancouver may take from ten to sixteen days to reach the addressee and the time lapse would depend, in part, in what country the mail originated. However, such transmission time should be the exception rather than the rule. There are no figures available that would show that the average time last year for such mail would have been from four to six days. Checks made at Vancouver have indicated that, in some cases, airmail letters have been posted in England up to five days prior to despatch. Allowing possibly up to two days for such mail to reach Vancouver, and an additional two days if a weekend intervenes, up to nine days' transmission time would be accounted for.

2. Air mail from Britain for Vancouver is transported by British Airways to Mirabel Airport exclusively. The decision to off-load at Mirabel Airport all air mail destined to offices in Toronto and west was made by the British Postal Administration in January 1976.

3. Air mail from Vancouver for Britain and the major European countries has always been and will continue to be routed directly from Vancouver.