

[English]

## VETERANS AFFAIRS

### PROCESSING OF APPLICATIONS FOR DISABILITY PENSIONS

**Mr. Gus Mitges (Grey-Simcoe):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Veterans Affairs. A recent War Veterans Allowance Board decision has expanded the terms of eligibility for veterans' pensions to include those veterans who, during the last war, served in non-combat areas such as Newfoundland and Jamaica on the same basis as those veterans receiving pensions who served in a theatre of war. Will the minister inform the House whether his department has begun processing these new applications and, if so, will they be dealt with as soon as possible?

**Hon. W. Bennett Campbell (Minister of Veterans Affairs):** Madam Speaker, I want first of all to thank the hon. member for giving me notice of this question. The answer is yes, they will be processed immediately.

### TERMS OF ELIGIBILITY

**Mr. Gus Mitges (Grey-Simcoe):** Madam Speaker, in light of this decision by the board will the minister give further consideration to broadening the terms of eligibility for pension benefits to include those veterans who, through no fault of their own, were stationed in Canada during the war and not given the opportunity to serve overseas but up to now have not been eligible for pensions?

**Hon. W. Bennett Campbell (Minister of Veterans Affairs):** Madam Speaker, the war veterans allowance when it was first initiated, as the hon. member probably knows, was restricted to individuals who were actually involved in front line service. As time went on that question boiled down to equating it to front line service. At the moment there are basically four criteria; having served in an active theatre of war; being a veteran who served in both wars; service in dangerous waters; or a disability pensioner. I am sure the War Veterans Allowance Board, just as it did in this particular instance in opening up the war veterans allowance benefits to those who served in Jamaica and Newfoundland, will continue to look at ways and means of further extending those benefits to other veterans.

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## PENITENTIARIES

### INFORMATION ON RELEASED PRISONERS GIVEN TO ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

**Mr. Benno Friesen (Surrey-White Rock-North Delta):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General. Is it the policy of his department or prison officials to provide the RCMP with the record of criminal activities engaged in by a prisoner while in prison, passing that information on to the RCMP after release of that prisoner?

## Oral Questions

**Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General):** Madam Speaker, the practice is to do that, so the answer is yes.

### NATURE OF INFORMATION

**Mr. Benno Friesen (Surrey-White Rock-North Delta):** Madam Speaker, I wonder if it is the practice of the Solicitor General or his department and the parole officers to provide the RCMP with information other than the computer print-out list when a prisoner is released.

**Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General):** Madam Speaker, it depends on the circumstances. When an inmate is released who might, although he has served his time and paid his debt to society, constitute a danger or a risk to the community to which he is going, the prison officials and the parole board will make information available to the police authorities and others in the community which it might be in their interest to know in order to provide protection for that community. If the hon. member has some specific problem in mind I would be glad to hear more about it and provide additional information for him.

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## AGRICULTURE

### LEGISLATION TO INCREASE FUNDING FOR FARM CREDIT CORPORATION

**Mr. Leonard Hopkins (Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. It is a well-known fact that the Farm Credit Corporation requires funding of \$200 million right now on an urgent basis in order to help those farm operations that are in great financial need. I want to ask the Minister of Agriculture how soon legislation will be ready dealing with the Farm Credit Corporation amendments which would allow that corporation to borrow money from the private sector, or from private capital markets, and would the minister, through the President of the Privy Council, seek agreement from all House leaders for quick passage of that legislation through this House?

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** Madam Speaker, the draft legislation is prepared. How quickly it will reach that stage in which it is in a form to be presented to the House I do not know. I hope this will follow the lines the hon. member has stated. We realize the urgency of having emergency credit for farmers. The Farm Credit Corporation has been the federal lending institution, and at one time in this nation loaned nearly 70 per cent of all long-term money for farmers. That is now down to about 20 per cent of long-term money. The need for an organization which understands rural Canada still exists, perhaps to an even greater extent today than before.