

Inquiries of the Ministry

the committee and members of the house, on the urgent need for an increase in disability pensions and war veterans allowances, can the minister inform the house of the government's intention with respect to his urgent question?

Hon. Roger Teillet (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the hon. member for giving me notice that he would ask this question today. Unfortunately I have no specific answer for him. The matter is still under consideration and no conclusion has been reached.

Mr. G. L. Chatterton (Esquimalt-Saanich): As a supplementary question, can the minister advise whether the report of the departmental committee on the basis of establishing disability pensions has been received and, second, whether such an amendment will be provided by way of amendment to the Pension Act or by way of estimates?

Mr. Teillet: Mr. Speaker, the answer to the first of this three-part question is that I have not yet received the report of the departmental committee. The answers to the other parts will depend on the circumstances at the time when a decision is reached.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS**REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON FREEDMAN REPORT**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the newly appointed Minister of Transport, but in his absence perhaps I may ask the Prime Minister whether he will ask the Minister of Transport to use his powers relating to integration to see if he can possibly integrate the recommendations of the Freedman report into policy and make an appropriate announcement in regard thereto?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): I shall be glad to take that up with the new minister, Mr. Speaker.

DOMINION-PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE**INQUIRY AS TO PROVINCES ACCEPTING INVITATION TO ATTEND**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. D. S. Harkness (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister is reported as having stated that five of the provinces have [Mr. Herridge.]

now accepted his invitation to the federal-provincial conference called for early next year. Could he tell us which provinces these are?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I would prefer, if possible, not to do that because I do not want to put the others, which have perhaps been delayed a bit, in an invidious position. I have reminded the other provinces today that I am hoping for replies shortly, and if my hon. friend would wait until the end of the week perhaps I may have ten replies.

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): As a supplementary question, may I ask the Prime Minister whether the governments of the Yukon and the Northwest Territories have been invited to participate in that conference.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Carleton.

Mr. Nielsen: Perhaps the Prime Minister did not hear my question, Mr. Speaker. Have either the government of the Yukon Territory or the government of the Northwest Territories, or both of them, been asked to participate in that conference?

Mr. Pearson: I shall have to look into that matter, Mr. Speaker.

PUBLIC SERVICE**LEGISLATION TO INCREASE PENSIONS OF RETIRED CIVIL SERVANTS**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. R. A. Bell (Carleton): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Prime Minister whether the government has completed its consideration of the unanimous report of the joint special committee of the Senate and the House of Commons on the public service for an increase in pensions of retired public servants and, if so, whether high priority will be given to implementing legislation?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of National Revenue and President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, perhaps I could answer this question by simply stating that the government has not at this point completed its consideration of the matter.

Mr. Bell (Carleton): Could the minister give any indication of when the consideration might be completed?

Mr. Benson: In due course, Mr. Speaker.