

*Inquiries of the Ministry***OLD AGE PENSIONS**STATUS OF PERSONS COMPENSATED FOR FLOOD
DAMAGE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): I should like to ask the Minister of National Health and Welfare if he can give the assurance that old age pensioners in the Red river valley who have had their houses damaged will not have the financial assistance given them by way of compensation treated as other income under the Old Age Pensions Act?

Hon. Paul Martin (Minister of National Health and Welfare): My hon. friend did not give me notice of his question. I would not want to give a snap answer. In any event I am guided of course, as is the hon. member, by the regulations, which are a matter of agreement between the provinces and the dominion, and also by the statute itself. I will look into the matter.

Mr. Knowles: And give an answer tomorrow?

FOREIGN EXCHANGECANADA-UNITED STATES—REFERENCE TO
REMARKS OF MR. HOWE IN DEBATE
ON JUNE 5

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. M. Macdonnell (Greenwood): I should like to address a question to the Minister of Finance. When the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Howe) in his speech on the Canadian Wheat Board Act yesterday introduced a discourse on the question of the exchange rate between Canada and the United States, was he speaking for the Minister of Finance, was it a private venture, or is he perhaps planning to invade the Department of Finance?

Hon. Douglas Abbott (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I think it is fair to say that my colleague, the Minister of Trade and Commerce, was as usual speaking for himself.

Mr. Ross (Souris): Not very authentic.

Mr. Abbott: I did not hear his remarks, but I understand he expressed the view that exchange rates were not necessarily fixed in perpetuity. With that view I am in agreement.

INQUIRY FOR RETURNSPUBLIC BUILDINGS, PURCHASE AND CONSTRUCTION
—STATIONERY USED BY GOVERNMENT
DEPARTMENTS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. E. D. Fulton (Kamloops): I should like to ask the Secretary of State if he will be

[Mr. Fournier (Hull).]

kind enough to do what he can to expedite two orders for returns standing in my name. One was passed on May 15, and concerns public works contracts. The other was passed on May 24, and concerns the types and sizes of stationery used in various government departments. If it is not possible to have the complete returns brought down at an early day, may I ask the minister if he will consider letting me have interim replies as they are received?

Hon. F. G. Bradley (Secretary of State): I shall be glad to look into the matter and do all I can to get the information for the hon. member.

BANKRUPTCY ACT

QUESTION AS TO PROCLAMATION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Donald M. Fleming (Eglinton): Mr. Speaker, I had a question to address to the Minister of Justice (Mr. Garson); perhaps in his absence the Solicitor General will look into the matter. Several weeks ago, in answer to a question, the Minister of Justice indicated that the Bankruptcy Act could not be brought into effect before July 1, but did not actually say it would be brought into effect on that date. Will the minister indicate as soon as possible on what date the act will be brought into effect?

Hon. Hugues Lapointe (Solicitor General): I will look into the matter and see that an answer is given.

METEOROLOGY

APPROVAL OF CONVENTION OF WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION SIGNED AT WASHINGTON OCTOBER 11, 1947

The house resumed, from Monday, June 5, consideration of the motion of Mr. Chevrier:

That it is expedient that the houses of parliament do approve the convention of the world meteorological organization signed at Washington on October 11, 1947, and tabled on February 14, 1949, and that this house do approve the same.

Mr. Howard C. Green (Vancouver-Quadra): Mr. Speaker, having now had an opportunity to review the terms of this convention, I am going to suggest to the Minister of Transport (Mr. Chevrier) that he have it considered by the standing committee on external affairs. This committee is now sitting, and there would be very little delay. I believe the committee has never had an opportunity to consider this convention. It would be possible to call before the committee not only officials of the Department of External Affairs, but also the chief meteorological officer of the Department of Transport, and other witnesses if necessary.