

S. O. 31

seen as a champion of the bill as it goes from approval in our country to Royal Assent to whatever happens from here on in.

I thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the opportunity to make my views known on this subject and perhaps to speak on some other peripheral subjects that while not directly pertinent to the bill certainly are involved in the sense of cause and effect.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Chair would offer the floor to the Hon. Member for Winnipeg—Transcona, with the consent of the House, of course, either to start now or after Question Period.

Mr. Blaikie: Mr. Speaker, if other members agree, I will call it one o'clock.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is there consent?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It being one o'clock, I do now leave the chair until 2 p.m.

At 12.55 p.m. the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. 0. 31

[*English*]

PENSIONS

Mr. Ron MacDonald (Dartmouth): Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the government again to amend the pension legislation and stop the blatant discrimination against ex-spouses of deceased federal public service employees and armed forces personnel.

On January 6 the CBC news report quoted the President of the Treasury Board as saying that the appropriate amendments would be brought before this House as soon as we resume in January.

On January 8 I contacted the minister's office and was told that no such legislation was being drafted and that no such recommendation had gone before cabinet. In short, nobody in the minister's office had any idea what the minister was talking about.

These Canadians feel that they have been betrayed by this minister and they are fed up with this empty rhetoric and broken promises. As a result the Canadian Pensioners Concerned and the Organization of Spouses of Military Members are now preparing to go to court to fight for fairness and equality with other Canadian men and women under this government's pension laws.

I now call upon this government to treat this matter with the urgency that it deserves, to introduce this legislation to get rid of this discrimination and to do so immediately. Enough of the rhetoric, now is the time for action.

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CANADA POST CORPORATION

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my frustration and anger with this government and in particular Canada Post. Main-a-Dieu, Cape Breton is a small fishing community in my constituency. It is presently awaiting the closure of its post office. It is a post office that has been in their community for 150 years.

Canada Post is neglecting to recognize the important role the post office plays in our rural communities. The post office has served as more than an avenue for postal service. It has served as an important element in our rural communities' social fabric. It is a meeting place and a sharing place for young and old.

I would ask the Minister responsible for Canada Post to change this particular decision and keep the Main-a-Dieu post office in operation. The post office is a valuable part of this community's identity and should not be dismantled. The people of Main-a-Dieu demand better of this government. They wish to have their post office maintained for years to come.

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CELEBRATION OF YEAR OF THE HORSE

Hon. David MacDonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, this Saturday, January 27, marks the Chinese New Year and Vietnamese New Year, Tet. May I take this opportunity to extend my very best wishes to the Chinese and Vietnamese communities in Rosedale riding, across