

**Mr. Hal Herbert (Vaudreuil):** Transfer for debate.

**Madam Speaker:** Transferred for debate.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT—HYDRO QUEBEC—HIGH TENSION ELECTRICAL LINES CROSSING THE OTTAWA RIVER AND THE ST. LAWRENCE RIVER.

Motion No. 7—**Mr. Herbert:**

That an order of the House do issue for copies of all minutes of meetings, documents, telegrams and letters concerning discussions between officials of the Department of Transport and Hydro-Quebec relating to high tension electrical lines crossing the Ottawa River below Carillon and the St. Lawrence River above Beauharnois.

**Mr. D. M. Collette (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council):** Madam Speaker, again the documents requested are of a voluminous character and would require an inordinate cost and length of time to prepare. I have, however, sent a copy to the hon. member. Therefore, I ask the hon. member to withdraw his motion.

**Mr. Hal Herbert (Vaudreuil):** Transfer for debate.

**Madam Speaker:** Transferred for debate.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS—REPORT OF PROFESSOR BARNHILL—CARLETON UNIVERSITY—OTTAWA

Motion No. 22—**Mr. MacKay:**

That an order of the House do issue for copies of a report commissioned by the Bureau of Physical Resources, Department of External Affairs, prepared by Professor Barnhill of Carleton University, Ottawa, in 1979.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Louis Duclos (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Madam Speaker, the report asked for by the hon. member for Central Nova (Mr. MacKay) was prepared as an internal working paper and contains comments on the competence, abilities and personalities of certain employees of the department. As such, it cannot and should not be tabled. I would therefore ask the hon. member to withdraw his motion.

**Madam Speaker:** Will the hon. member withdraw his motion?

[*English*]

**Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova):** Madam Speaker, this report, which was commissioned by R. K. Plowman of the Bureau of Physical Services, is obviously one that is of great moment. The actions of this particular department have been indirectly commented upon. It is the single department within the Department of External Affairs which is totally responsible for the provisioning of our diplomatic and other representatives abroad.

The bureau spends a great deal of money and is of such a character that I think the government would want, particularly if it is committed at all to freedom of information, to commission this report which appears ironically enough to be held back by the very person who commissioned it, Mr. Plowman. It deals with his management style and the style in general with which the bureau is managed.

### *Veterans' Pensions*

I would certainly not withdraw my request but request that it be transferred for debate. If the government will not put this information on record, there may be other ways of doing it.

**Madam Speaker:** Transferred for debate. Shall the remaining motions stand?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

● (1530)

## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[*English*]

### STATUTE LAW (MILITARY AND CIVILIAN WAR PENSIONS, COMPENSATION AND ALLOWANCES) AMENDMENT ACT, 1980

MEASURE RESPECTING PENSIONS OF VETERANS

**Hon. Daniel J. MacDonald (Minister of Veterans Affairs)** moved that Bill C-40, to amend the Pension Act, the Compensation for Former Prisoners of War Act, the War Veterans Allowance Act and the Civilian War Pensions and Allowances Act, be read the second time and referred by unanimous consent to Committee of the Whole.

**Madam Speaker:** Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Knowles:** No. We are waiting to hear from the minister.

**Madam Speaker:** Yes, I was going to give him the floor. Then I should withdraw "Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?" and give the floor to the hon. Minister of Veterans Affairs (Mr. MacDonald).

**Mr. MacDonald:** Madam Speaker, it is with a good deal of pride that I speak on second reading of this bill dealing with amendments to the Pension Act, the compensation for Former Prisoners of War Act, the War Veterans Allowance Act and the Civilian War Pensions and Allowances Act.

As hon. members know, these are economy conscious times. This government is committed to fiscal responsibility and the prudent management of taxpayers' money. But this government has another commitment, a commitment spelled out in the last election campaign by the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) when he promised help to those Canadians who need it most.

This pledge was kept last month when Parliament passed legislation increasing the guaranteed income supplement by \$35 per month. Now this government is proposing that Parliament give similar recognition and support to another group of Canadians who deserve our help. I refer to disabled pensioners, the widows and dependants of those Canadians who went to