

Water Resources Programs

• (3:00 p.m.)

GOVERNMENT ORDERS**WATER RESOURCES****PROVISION FOR MANAGEMENT INCLUDING RESEARCH AND PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAMS**

The House resumed, from Tuesday, May 26, consideration of Bill C-144, to provide for the management of the water resources of Canada including research and the planning and implementation of programs relating to the conservation, development and utilization of water resources, as reported (with amendments) from the Standing Committee on National Resources and Public Works, Motion No. 15 (Mrs. MacInnis).

Mr. Speaker: Order. I believe some days ago the hon. member for Kootenay West filed a notice of motion on the report stage of the bill which has now been called for consideration. As the hon. member has observed, this notice does not appear on the notice paper. I am sure he suspected that there were some reservations on the part of the Chair as to whether it should be accepted at that stage.

The matter has been considered very seriously by the Chair and I am in a position to express my views at this moment. I am not sure that much purpose would be served by hearing argument in the matter. I have had an opportunity of discussing the situation with a number of hon. members outside the House, and I think there is general agreement on the decision that the Chair is prepared to give at this time. However, if hon. members desire to express their views in this connection, I will hear those views before giving my ruling.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, since Your Honour has been frank enough to indicate that you are ready to give your ruling to the House, it would hardly be appropriate for me to take very long in arguing the other way.

An hon. Member: You know what the ruling is.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): My colleague suggests that I know what your ruling is going to be. However, Your Honour was also frank enough to say that you had discussions with a number of members, and I

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, we have responded on a number of different fronts. First of all, the Governor General has sent a message to the President of Peru expressing the sympathy of the Canadian government and people for the disaster. We have also made inquiries as to the safety of Canadians there, but we have no report yet since communications have been interrupted between Lima and the northern part of the country where the earthquake took place. Finally, we propose to make a cash contribution of \$25,000 to the Canadian Red Cross Society for making available the supplies requested, and we understand that the Red Cross itself is making available another \$12,000 from its own resources. We are also checking with the Canadian embassy in Peru to see whether any other measures are needed, whether by way of assistance through the Red Cross or in any other way.

INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

Mr. J. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Veterans Affairs. In view of the fact it has been calculated that by the year 2030 there will be only one veteran left alive in this country, will the minister assure the House that action will be taken on the Woods report prior to that time so that at least he will benefit?

FINANCE**FREEDING OF DOLLAR EXCHANGE RATE—COMPENSATION TO TOURIST OPERATORS FOR LOSSES SUFFERED**

Mr. A. D. Alkenbrack (Frontenac-Lennox and Addington): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance and arises from complaints made by tourist operators in my riding. Will the Minister of Finance be reimbursing Canadian tourist operators who last weekend, on the Memorial Day holiday, innocently allowed many U.S. guests a 6 per cent premium on U.S. money and subsequently sustained heavy exchange losses because the minister gave them no prior notice of his action?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member's question might well be considered at the time of adjournment or placed on the Order Paper. Orders of the day.