

to the Minister of Veterans Affairs. In view of the very welcome increases in the pensions of retired civil servants that are to come into effect in April, and in view of the fact that some of those who will get these increases are receiving the war veterans allowance, will the minister take the necessary steps to see that these increases are not deducted from the war veterans allowance in the same way as the minister has done with respect to the 2 per cent increase in the old age security pension?

Hon. Jean-Eudes Dubé (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I will be very pleased to look into the matter with all possible sympathy.

[Later:]

DISCUSSIONS ON WOODS COMMITTEE REPORT
—CONVENING OF STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. Mark Rose (Fraser Valley West): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Veterans Affairs. In a sense it is supplementary to the question asked by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre. In view of the interest of veterans across Canada in the report of the Woods Committee, can the minister report to the House the current status of discussions between his officials and those of the national veterans organizations? Also, when will the standing committee be in a position to reconvene?

Hon. Jean-Eudes Dubé (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, they have just about completed their discussions and they should report very soon to the committee. As soon as the committee has reported to the House we will be pleased to prepare legislation on this matter.

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

WESTERN CANADA—REQUEST FOR REVIEW OF
INCENTIVE PLAN

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): I have a question for the Acting Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. Having in mind the difficult conditions which exist in parts of western Canada, will the minister consider reviewing and re-examining all aspects of the regional incentive plan as it applies to these parts of western Canada so that some form of assistance may be provided?

Mr. Martin P. O'Connell (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): I will bring this question to the attention of the minister, Mr. Speaker.

Inquiries of the Ministry

INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

Mr. Mac T. McCutcheon (Lambton-Kent): May I direct my question to the Prime Minister. It concerns the \$130,000 which it is reported the Prime Minister proposes to give to the government backbenchers for "research". Is this being done in lieu of their request for salary increases?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Translation]

AGRICULTURE

DAIRYING—POLICY RESPECTING GRANTS

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Agriculture.

In view of the answer the minister has just given to the hon. member for Bellechasse (Mr. Lambert), to the effect that the decision to reduce by \$10 million the Canadian Dairy Commission's budget is irrevocable, and also in view of the fact that the Committee on Agriculture will have to make recommendations to the government, does the answer given to the hon. member for Bellechasse mean that the committee need not trouble recommending to the government to review its position on the dairy policy?

[English]

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, obviously the Standing Committee on Agriculture is its own master and may decide what it wants to put in its report to this House.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

PHASING OUT OF U.S. NAVAL OPERATION AT
ARGENTINA, NFLD.

Mr. Walter C. Carter (St. John's West): My question is addressed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Is the minister aware of any plans on the part of the United States government to phase out its naval operation in Argentina?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): We have held consultations with the United States government concerning reports that they were planning to phase out their operation in Argentina, and we expect an announcement will be made soon by the Americans.