

Oral Questions

[Translation]

SOCIAL SECURITY

RETIRED RAILWAY WORKERS—REPRESENTATIONS BY MINISTER RESPECTING INCREASE IN PENSIONS

Mr. Raymond Dupont (Sainte-Marie): I thank you, Mr. Speaker, for having noticed that the member for Sainte-Marie now sits on the other side of the House.

Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Labour whether there have been new developments with regard to pensioned-off railroaders, which question concerns thousands of Canadian railroaders?

[English]

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I have been advised of a beneficial development in this area. As I understand it, the company, as a result of representations made to it by an organization representing the employees, has agreed to raise the pension by 2 per cent, effective on January 1.

RETIRED PUBLIC SERVANTS, ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL AND RCMP PENSIONS—STATUS OF CONSIDERATION OF RAISING OR REMOVING CEILING ON ESCALATION

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the President of the Treasury Board. In view of the assurance given by the minister toward the end of the previous session that consideration would be given to raising or removing the 2 per cent ceiling on the escalation of pensions of retired public servants and also retired armed forces and RCMP personnel, can the minister say what is now the status of that consideration?

Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, in view of the genesis of the 2 per cent figure in the Superannuation Act, namely, its relationship to the Canada Pension Plan, perhaps these two matters could be looked at together.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister also tell us what is the status of the consideration being given to providing for the escalation of the pensions of armed forces and RCMP personnel compulsorily retired prior to the age of 60, in order that their escalation may commence without their having to wait until they are 60?

Mr. Drury: Mr. Speaker, I think I assured the hon. gentleman in the previous session that this was being sympathetically considered. I think, if we are to open up the Superannuation Act and the Armed Forces Pension Act, they should be opened up at the same time in order to cut down debate.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Let us do it now, Mr. Speaker.

[Mr. Speaker.]

AIRPORTS

VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL—POSSIBLE EXPROPRIATION OF BURKEVILLE AREA OF SEA ISLAND

Mr. John Reynolds (Burnaby-Richmond-Delta): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Transport arising out of his answer yesterday. Does the government now intend to expropriate the Burkeville area of Sea Island?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I am not sure how urgent the matter is. Perhaps the minister might reply. I suggest that normally a question of this nature should be placed on the order paper. If the minister can answer he may do so.

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I think all these questions concerning expropriation should be directed to the Minister of Public Works who is in charge of such matters.

Mr. Stanfield: At present he is too busy sinking barges.

Mr. Reynolds: Mr. Speaker, may I direct the same question to the Minister of Public Works. Does the government now intend to expropriate the Burkeville area of Sea Island?

Hon. Jean-Eudes Dubé (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, a hearing has taken place with respect to the Burkeville area and the hearing officer submitted his report two days ago. A decision will be taken shortly.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think the hon. member for Cape Breton-East Richmond has a supplementary to the previous question.

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PUBLIC SERVICE

AUTHORITY FOR COMPULSORY RETIREMENT OF PUBLIC SERVANTS, ARMED FORCES AND RCMP PERSONNEL

Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the President of the Treasury Board and relates to the question asked by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre. The hon. member asked a question about compulsory retirement of members of the armed forces and the RCMP. I did not catch the minister's answer. Is it not a fact that there is no authority for retiring anybody compulsorily and that those forcibly retired, whether members of the RCMP or of the armed forces, are entitled to the same privileges that the government now provides to civil servants?

Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I do not think the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre made any reference to compulsory retirement. He was discussing another topic.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond): I rise on a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker. Of course, I would need to be supported on my question of privilege by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre. I distinctly heard the reference made to members of the armed forces