

announcement is appropriate. Decisions are moving forward and I think we may have an announcement about the details before very long.

* * *

CANADA PENSION PLAN

DELAY IN PROCESSING CLAIMS—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Since it has taken between four and six months and in some cases up to eight months to process claims under the Canada Pension Plan, would the minister be good enough to have that situation investigated and ascertain if further equipment is required such as computers, or more staff, in order to expedite these claims?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I would advise the hon. member that, because of the hundreds of thousands of claims now coming in as the program ages, it has been necessary in order to catch up with the load for us to do the very thing the hon. member is suggesting. We are converting to computers but the process is not complete.

* * *

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

INDIA—CANADIAN ASSISTANCE FOLLOWING TIDAL WAVE

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs if the government has now arranged a program of special assistance for the victims of the terrible tragedy in the state of Orissa, India. If so, what is the nature of the assistance?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I inquired of the department this morning and they are putting before me today a recommendation for some temporary assistance at least in the form of a cheque to the Red Cross, but since it has not come formally before me I cannot yet announce it.

* * *

HEALTH

TESTING OF MORNING AFTER CONTRACEPTIVE PILL

Mr. Doug Rowland (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Is he aware that an American research laboratory in Chicago has conducted successful experiments with the morning after contraceptive pill, and is the minister's department prepared to conduct similar tests on this pill to determine whether or not it is suitable for use in Canada?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, the answer to that, generally, is yes. We are watching the developments in this area close-

Inquiries of the Ministry

ly. Our most recent action was to reconstitute the experimental committee on the pill and other recent discoveries in this area. We expect to have a report from them shortly.

* * *

NATIONAL DEFENCE

INCLUSION OF COST OF COMPUTERIZED WEAPONS SYSTEMS IN COST OF HYDROFOIL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Defence. Can the minister tell the House whether, in the figure of \$52.5 million he gave in his recent statement regarding the cost of the development program for the hydrofoil *Bras d'Or*, there is included the cost of computerized weapons systems and other armament costs?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I think this is a matter of public record but I can look up the references and let the hon. member know.

* * *

AIR TRANSPORT

USE BY ROYAL AIR FORCE OF UNITED STATES FACILITIES AT GOOSE BAY BECAUSE OF DETERIORATION OF DEPARTMENTAL RAMPS AND HANGARS

Mr. Ambrose Hubert Peddle (Grand Falls-White Bay-Labrador): Mr. Speaker, I have been trying for three days to catch your eye.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Peddle: Actually, I had been absent, Mr. Speaker, attending the funeral—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Peddle:—of a government. My question was to be addressed to the Minister of Transport but in his absence I will direct it to his parliamentary secretary. It is an international question, Mr. Speaker, involving Great Britain, the United States and Canada. Is the minister aware that the Royal Air Force, which up to now has been using Department of Transport facilities at Goose Bay, is now using United States Air Force facilities for its aircraft as a result of the deterioration of DOT ramps, and hangars? If so, what action is the minister prepared to take to ensure that this RAF activity is returned to the Canadian site?

Mr. Gérard Duquet (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I will take this question as notice.

* * *

• (2:50 p.m.)

ABORTION

MEASURES TO ENSURE LAW IS APPLIED FAIRLY REGARDLESS OF WHERE PEOPLE LIVE

Mr. Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Justice. In view of evidence