

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Friday, October 31, 1975

The House met at 11 a.m.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

VETERANS AFFAIRS

SUGGESTED NOTIFICATION OF DISABILITY PENSIONERS OF ELIGIBILITY FOR HIGHER WAR VETERANS ALLOWANCES—
MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, I wish to move a motion under Standing Order 43 on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity. Recent increases in war veterans and civilian war allowances have created a disparity between these allowances and disability pensions. The disparity creates the effect that veterans with 75 per cent disability or less and who earn no other income may be losing many dollars annually; and in too many cases they are not made officially aware that they are eligible for the higher rate under war veterans allowances. In order to overcome this disparity, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Edmonton Centre (Mr. Paproski):

● (1110)

That this House recommends that the Minister of Veterans Affairs direct that all veterans who are eligible be notified forthwith and that the matter be referred to the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs.

Mr. Speaker: Standing Order 43 requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

ANTI-INFLATION BOARD—APPOINTMENT OF
REPRESENTATIVE OF LABOUR

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. Has he succeeded in completing the appointments to the Anti-Inflationary Board? I think that three members were contemplated. Has someone who would be reasonably credible from a labour point of view been sought and found? Has the process been completed?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I believe that as a member of the permanent group of eight, we have one person who was very closely identified with labour. I believe there is a vacancy left amongst the three Ottawa members. We are attempting to get somebody there, not necessarily to identify with labour but somebody who will be able to understand their point of view.

ANTI-INFLATION BOARD—COMMITMENT OF MRS. PLUMPTRE
TO CONTROL PROGRAM

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): The process has not been completed. I wish to ask the Prime Minister whether he has confidence in Mrs. Plumptre's commitment to the controls program that he has announced, particularly in view of Mrs. Plumptre's statement in Edmonton on March 6, 1974, in which she said, among other things, and I quote:

—while any government in a sharply inflationary environment might be tempted to start down the general price control path, it was a path that led all too quickly into a morass of tensions and antagonisms between national groups and classes and regions.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I do not remember that statement by Mrs. Plumptre. However, having myself made statements that prices and incomes control could very well lead to a morass of complications, I am not surprised at that statement. It is obvious that Mrs. Plumptre shares the government's view that it would have been better if we could have cured inflation without going into controls, but since she has accepted a position on the board, she has come to the view that this kind of action is required at this time.

I might add to my previous answer that I was not intending to imply that the six people now appointed to sit are not able to understand labour's point of view. The point that the Leader of the Opposition was making is one with which I agree. It would be good if we could have some people as members of the board who in the past have been more directly associated with labour.

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Prime Minister how many people accompanied him, the Minister of Finance and Mrs. Plumptre on that bus ride to Damascus.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

ANTI-INFLATION PROGRAM—ABILITY OF GOVERNMENT TO
SELL PROGRAM TO THE PEOPLE

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Prime Minister. Given the fact that the vice-chairman of the Anti-Inflation Board in a speech yesterday expressed reservations about some of the limits of the government's program, and indeed expressed grave reservations about the exclusion