

Oral Questions

to the people of the James Bay area. Basically that is what counts. That is our objective, and it is well met.

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PENSIONS**SPLITTING OF CREDITS FOLLOWING MARRIAGE BREAKDOWN—
LEGISLATIVE ACTION QUERY**

Mr. Vince Dantzer (Okanagan North): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the President of the Treasury Board who will know that in the Green Paper on pension reform, strongly endorsed by the Minister of Finance and the Minister of National Health and Welfare, there was a call for the splitting of pension credits on marriage breakdown. Does the Minister intend to change the Superannuation Act and the Diplomatic Service Act regarding that particular item?

Hon. Herb Gray (President of the Treasury Board): Madam Speaker, this kind of question and a number of others involving the Superannuation Act will be considered by the Government in the context of the debate on the Green Paper. As yet the Government has not taken any decision with respect to proposals in the Green Paper concerning the private pension system, and we feel our decisions with respect to any changes in the Public Service system should be in the context of our consideration of the larger issues.

Mr. Dantzer: Madam Speaker, the National Action Committee on the Status of Women and the National Council of Women are today appearing before the Pension Committee. I am sure those groups will be very sorry to hear that the Government is dragging its feet on this issue when it should be the leader.

**PROTECTION SOUGHT FOR EX-SPOUSES OF ARMED FORCES
PERSONNEL**

Mr. Vince Dantzer (Okanagan North): Madam Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Minister of National Defence. It is my understanding that the Canadian Forces Superannuation Act does not include any provision for splitting of pension credits on marriage breakdown. The Minister will admit this is particularly important because members of the Armed Forces travel all over the world and it is very difficult for their spouses, who usually travel with them, to get employment during their careers. I would like to know what the Minister is doing to protect those spouses in the event of marriage breakdown.

● (1500)

Hon. J. Gilles Lamontagne (Minister of National Defence): Madam Speaker, all of these questions on superannuation are under study in our Department. I admit to the hon. gentleman that in the Armed Forces there are some exigencies that are not the same as with other public servants. I assume him that I will look into the matter and give the Hon. Member an adequate answer in written fashion.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**LOST TIME DURING ALLOTTED DAY**

Mr. Lewis: Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Yesterday was an allotted day but as a result of the Government not having its Members in place, we were unable to vote. Consequently, on our allotted day we lost two and three-quarters hours of debating time which was being devoted to the very important mining industry in Canada.

I would ask the Government House Leader (Mr. Pinard), in arranging the House business for next week, if he would consider taking that loss of time into account and perhaps replacing it as soon as possible?

[*Translation*]

Mr. Pinard: Madam Speaker, I shall try to count the Government days lost as a result of a similar attitude on the part of the Opposition, and as soon as I have been able to make some comparisons, I will be in a position to give the Hon. Member a more knowledgeable answer.

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[*English*]

POINT OF ORDER**MR. ANGUISH—QUESTION OF MR. NIELSEN DURING QUESTION
PERIOD**

Mr. Doug Anguish (The Battlefords-Meadow Lake): Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order in relation to a question asked today in the House by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Nielsen). I believe he inadvertently misled the House in the preamble to his question. I would suggest that in relation to the question he asked about the Primrose air weapons range there are a couple of factors that bear on his statement.

Madam Speaker: Order. I am sure the Hon. Member knows that that is not a point of order. He is simply pursuing the Question Period. He may do that tomorrow since that is the time when it would be appropriate.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[*Translation*]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**MANITOBA INCIDENT—TABLING OF EXCHANGE OF DIPLOMATIC
NOTES WITH UNITED STATES**

Mr. Jean Lapierre (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, further to the question asked yesterday by the Hon. Member for the Opposition, I am tabling an