

Bill No. 132, for the relief of Jean Duncan Girard.—Mr. Maybank.

Bill No. 133, for the relief of Evelyn Sylvia Jones Bowen.—Mr. Maybank.

Bill No. 134, for the relief of Joseph Eugene Bourbonnais.—Mr. Maybank.

VETERANS AFFAIRS

INQUIRY WITH RESPECT TO PROVISION FOR DEPENDENTS OF THE LATE DOCTOR BOWIE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. R. WEBB (Leeds): I should like to ask a question of the Minister of Veterans Affairs. I am sorry that I did not have an opportunity of sending him notice of it before the house opened. What decision has been reached with regard to the payment of funeral expenses and a pension to the widow and children of Doctor Bowie, who was shot and killed while doing his duty as a medical officer in the employment of the Department of Veterans Affairs?

Hon. MILTON F. GREGG (Minister of Veterans Affairs): I have been in touch with this case, and have just been informed at the noon hour that the grant to Mrs. Bowie must be placed in the department's estimates. We are therefore placing an item in the supplementary estimates for this year in an effort to speed up action in this matter. In the meantime I can assure hon. members that all steps will be taken that can be taken to make sure that the widow is not under any disadvantage.

FUEL OIL

QUESTION OF AUGMENTING SUPPLY TO PROTECT PRESENT PRICES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. PARK MANROSS (London): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. In view of the fact that some dealers are raising the price of fuel oil for domestic heating from 17½ cents per gallon to 26 and 28 cents, will the minister make a statement as to whether anything can be done to augment the present supply so that existing contracts can be protected at present prices?

Right Hon. C. D. HOWE (Minister of Trade and Commerce): I should point out, Mr. Speaker, that neither the Minister of Trade and Commerce nor any other member of the government has any legislative authority to interfere with the distribution of fuel oil or to regulate the price. However, the good offices of the government have been exercised to see that no Canadian householder has been without fuel oil, and I think in that regard we have

been successful. As far as the price is concerned, usually the difficulty lies with small dealers who took customers after the government asked them not to do so, and who did not contract for supplies sufficient to protect those customers. Those dealers must get fuel oil where they can. If there are extra transportation charges involved, the dealers must pay the charges, and I presume they must pass them on to their customers.

Mr. COLDWELL: Good old private enterprise!

VEGETABLES

INQUIRY WITH RESPECT TO IMPORTATION BY AIR FROM THE UNITED STATES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. O. PROBE (Regina City): I should like to address a question to the Minister of Finance (Mr. Abbott) who is not in his seat today. If the parliamentary assistant can answer, I will appreciate it; if not, it can be taken as notice for tomorrow. Is the minister aware that certain fresh vegetables now banned from import to Canada from the United States are being flown into Canada daily from California by commercial aircraft? Will the minister explain to the house why these vegetables are being admitted when ordinary bulk vegetables such as lettuce and celery are barred from import into Canada?

Mr. R. W. MAYHEW (Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Finance): I will take notice of the question and bring it to the minister's attention and see that it is answered as soon as possible.

NAILS

PRIORITY FOR GOVERNMENT HOUSING PROJECTS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. E. DROPE (Northumberland, Ont.): I should like to ask the Minister of Trade and Commerce whether any control is exercised by the federal government over the distribution of nails. If so, has any order or direction been given under which priority provision has been established for government housing projects? If so, when was that order issued, and under what authority?

Right Hon. C. D. HOWE (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Under the priorities officer the department does protect veterans housing and low cost housing projects generally. That is the only priority exercised. It is exercised by virtue of the reconstruction and supply act and the emergency legislation authorized by the house last session.