

Order Paper Questions

CBC—PERMISSION FROM THE MUSICIANS' UNION FOR THE APPEARANCE OF RCMP BAND

Question No. 442—Mr. Diefenbaker:

For what reason must permission from the Musicians' Union be secured for the RCMP Band as was stated to be the case when the Band appeared over CBC on January 10, 1974?

Hon. James Hugh Faulkner (Secretary of State): I am informed by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation as follows: For many years, the CBC has recognized the American Federation of Musicians as the exclusive bargaining agent for musicians appearing on its radio and television programs. The RCMP Band, and military type bands, in the course of regular duties, may be broadcast on radio or television without any need for permission from the Musicians' Union. On the CBC English television network program of January 10, 1974, however, the members of the RCMP Band performed in a capacity similar to that of musicians in an orchestra working as the featured musical performers in a television entertainment program.

COST OF SPRUCE BUDWORM CONTROL—NEW BRUNSWICK, 1973-74

Question No. 458—Mr. Howie:

From March 31, 1973 to March 31, 1974, how much money was paid by the government for the protection of New Brunswick forests by aerial spraying to prevent and control the effects of spruce budworm and other insects and is the government continuing this programme beyond March 31, 1974?

Mr. William Rompkey (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of the Environment): The cost of the federal share of the spruce budworm control operation in New Brunswick in 1973-74 was \$631,200. In 1974-75 the government will again share in the cost of control operations in New Brunswick to the extent that funds are available within a limited budget.

*CANADIAN PENSION COMMISSION—APPLICATIONS

Question No. 481—Mr. Diefenbaker:

1. How many applications from veterans for pensions and allowances await decision by the Pension Commission?
2. In how many of these cases has there been a delay of (a) six months (b) 12 months (c) 18 months in processing the applications and making a decision?
3. How many (a) World War I veterans (b) World War II veterans have made their first application for pensions during the past year?

Mr. Maurice Foster (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, the answer is as follows: 1. As of 24 February 1974, there were 7,360 applications for pension awaiting decision by the Canadian Pension Commission.

[Mr. Guay (St. Boniface).]

2. Statistics on outstanding claims are not available for the precise period indicated in the question; however, following are figures for closely related periods as of February 24, 1974: Applications five months or more old, 7,360; Applications twelve months or more old, 5,006; Applications eighteen months or more old, 243.

3. Most World War I veterans and many World War II veterans for whom decisions on pension application are pending first made unsuccessful applications and exhausted their appeal rights many years ago and before the Pension Act was amended in 1971. With the amendments of 1971, all veterans, regardless of their period of service, were granted the right to make new applications based on the amended legislation and many have exercised this right. In addition there have been a considerable number of applications from veterans with disabilities that manifested or worsened during recent years and which they consider are attributable to their war service.

The total number of applications received in 1973, including first time and repeat applications was 8,731. This includes applications relating to World War I, World War II, Regular Force, Special Force and other service. The Commission does not record the period of service as a statistic at the time of receipt of applications.

VETERANS AFFAIRS—DISABILITY PENSION, NEW BRUNSWICK

Question No. 485—Mr. Howie:

On March 1, 1974, how many veterans were known to be waiting for a Board hearing in respect to their disability pensions, pension increases or adjustments and, of these, how many were from New Brunswick?

Hon. Daniel J. MacDonald (Minister of Veterans Affairs): As of March 1, 1974, there were 2,973 applications (including 193 from New Brunswick) for an Entitlement Board or a hearing as to quantum of pension, which had not yet been considered. Of this number, 1,542 (including 77 from New Brunswick) are in the course of having a Statement of Case prepared in the manner and form required by the Pension Act for an Entitlement Board, or are being prepared for a hearing as to quantum. A Statement of Case or other necessary documentation has been prepared for each of the remaining 1,431 applications and referred to the applicant, usually through his advocate, to determine if he is satisfied with the Statement of Case or other documentation and to certify that he is ready to proceed with the hearing. Of this number 534 cases (including 22 from New Brunswick) have been certified by the applicants and are ready for hearing and 897 (including 94 from New Brunswick) are awaiting certification of readiness to proceed.

WILLIAM HEAD PENITENTIARY—CONSTRUCTION OF FENCE

Question No. 491—Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich):

1. Has the contract been awarded to construct the new fence at William Head Penitentiary to convert that institution from a minimum to a maximum security institution?
2. Was it awarded through open competition and, if not (a) for what reason (b) if so (i) in what journals was the competition advertised (ii) how many bids were received?
3. Was the bid accepted the lowest bid offered and, if not, for what reason?