

PENSION ACT

REQUEST FOR ALLOWANCES IN RESPECT OF ADOPTED CHILDREN

On the orders of the day:

Mr. E. D. Fulton (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, may I ask a question of the Minister of Veterans Affairs relative to the statement he has just made. My question is whether the proposed change in legislation connected with the Pension Act will allow pensioners, who are not able to have children of their own, but who have adopted children, to receive additional payments.

Hon. Hugues Lapointe (Minister of Veterans Affairs): I am afraid—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Fulton: There are a number of such cases, and it is no laughing matter for them. I am asking if it will now be provided that payments for dependents will be made to those who have legally adopted children.

Mr. Cruickshank: Have them see Dr. Bertrand.

Mr. Lapointe: I am afraid I cannot answer that question at the moment. However I would be very glad to take it into consideration. If the hon. member has any particular case in mind, and wishes to bring it to my attention, I shall look into it.

Mr. Fulton: I have written to the minister about a particular case two or three times already. I am sorry the minister does not read his correspondence. I will write to him again, but it would be better if he would do something about it.

COARSE GRAINS

PLEBISCITE IN CONNECTION WITH MARKETING

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. G. Diefenbaker (Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question of the Minister of Trade and Commerce in connection with the plebiscite at present before the people of Manitoba in connection with compulsory grain marketing, and would ask him whether, regardless of whether or not the vote is in the negative, coarse grain marketing in Saskatchewan and Alberta will still be continued.

Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce): The plebiscite in Manitoba is a matter that does not have anything to do with this government. When we see the result of the plebiscite, a decision will be made.

Inquiries of the Ministry

[Later:]

Mr. Diefenbaker: I ask the minister whether Premier Campbell of Manitoba had any authority to say that the dominion government would withdraw all supplementary legislation in all three provinces if there was a negative vote in Manitoba?

Mr. Howe: If the hon. member is reading from the article I read, that is not what Premier Campbell said.

Mr. Diefenbaker: That is not an answer and is different from the minister's statement of two years ago.

CRIMINAL CODE

REVISION COMMISSION—REQUEST FOR REPORT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. G. Diefenbaker (Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question of the Minister of Justice in connection with the work of the commission that has been sitting to consider criminal law amendments. Has the commission made any final or interim report and, if so, will the matter of the amendments come before the present session?

Hon. Stuart S. Garson (Minister of Justice): In reply to the hon. member may I say that no report has been received. I think that answers the remainder of the question.

CHINA

REPLY TO INQUIRY AS TO PROHIBITION OF EXPORT OF CANADIAN FUNDS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. James Sinclair (Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, yesterday the hon. member for Peterborough West (Mr. Fraser) asked the following question:

Owing to the reports that communists are continuing to blackmail Canadians of Chinese descent who have relatives or friends in China, in order to protect these Canadians has the government given consideration to prohibiting the export of Canadian dollars and other funds to communist China and to countries behind the iron curtain?

The hon. member asked the same question of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Abbott) last January, at which time the minister replied:

The matter has not been given consideration up to the present time.

Since that time the Minister of Finance and the department have given the matter consideration, and I have to report that the department has no knowledge of such allegations, namely that blackmail or extortion is