

there would be a meeting of the CN board to discuss the question of the escalation of pensions of retired CNR employees. I indicated to him, and I am keeping my commitment, that on Tuesday, May 27, I would question the minister about this matter. I wonder whether the parliamentary secretary could now indicate what decision the CN board took yesterday.

Mr. Cliff McIsaac (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, in answer to my hon. friend I am not sure whether the decision was taken yesterday, but just before coming into the House I was given some brief information to the effect that there was an escalation provided for CNR pensioners effective January 1, 1975, pertaining to people who went on pension from December 31, 1972, and from thereon back. The amount varies from \$12 a month to \$7 a month. There are different rates. I may have to provide the details to my hon. friend later, but there has been an escalation covering the period of time from December 31, 1972, on back.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I ask a supplementary question. Will the parliamentary secretary ascertain whether this is the end of the story or whether the board has other decisions to make regarding Canadian National pensions.

Mr. McIsaac: Mr. Speaker, I shall be glad to make an inquiry in that regard because I cannot answer that right now.

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ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

REQUEST FOR REPORT ON ALLEGATION MR. GONZALES OPERATED AS CIA AGENT IN CANADA

Mr. John Reynolds (Burnaby-Richmond-Delta): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Solicitor General relating to a letter he wrote me on April 9 regarding a Virginio Gonzales an alleged CIA agent in Canada. The minister said in his letter at that time he was having a further investigation in view of the fact that Mr. Gonzales stated he did operate inside Canada. Can the minister advise me how his investigation is coming along?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I do not have a further report at this time but I will try to obtain one from the RCMP and report to the hon. member as quickly as possible.

Mr. Reynolds: Mr. Speaker, can the minister assure the House that he will have that information for the Standing committee meeting tomorrow afternoon?

● (1450)

Mr. Allmand: I will do my best to obtain such a report for the meeting tomorrow.

Oral Questions

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

POSSIBLE DIFFERENCE OF OPINION BETWEEN FRANCE AND OTHER NATO COUNTRIES

Mr. Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Acting Prime Minister. As the President of France will not be present at the summit meeting of NATO countries, instead sending his foreign minister, does this indicate there are fairly sharp differences of opinion or views held by the President of France as opposed to other NATO countries and particularly Canada?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, as the hon. gentleman knows, France is not part of the integrated force. There has always been some difference in the attitude of France to NATO. I do not think this represents any deterioration.

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AGRICULTURE

CANADIAN EGG MARKETING AGENCY—POSSIBILITY OF ENFORCING AGREEMENT AND ACTION WITH REGARD TO BIRD POPULATION

Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Agriculture and arises from a question posed by the hon. member for Perth-Wilmot. On the basis of the information the minister has before him, is he satisfied that the present agreement can be satisfactorily enforced, having regard to the terms and conditions which were added by the provinces to the original agreement, and has the minister obtained a legal opinion as to whether the penalty of \$1.00 per bird on flocks in excess of quota can be legally enforced?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier, I do not have a full report, and part of the report is the legal opinion I am waiting for.

Mr. Mazankowski: I wonder if the minister can outline to the House whether any positive steps have been taken to bring the bird numbers into line commensurate with production targets, or has there just been no action in this regard whatsoever over the last six months?

Mr. Whelan: It is obvious that there has been some reduction in the bird population. It is quite a bit smaller than it was at this time a year ago.

Mr. Mazankowski: Could the minister indicate to the House which provinces have not brought their bird numbers into line?

Mr. Whelan: No, Mr. Speaker, because I would have to familiarize myself with the record.

Mr. Mazankowski: Don't you know what is going on?