

return to Canada immediately. We are taking all steps possible for us to take by way of representations and assistance but, of course, the hon. member will recognize we must do this consistent with the laws and practices of the country concerned.

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Speaker, in light of the fact that this is one of the examples of Canadians being incarcerated in that nation—and I brought to the attention of the former Secretary of State of External Affairs a matter in respect in which he was most helpful—I wonder whether the whole ball of wax could be protested so that these people who are charged with offences can be at least brought before a court for a remand. It would seem that in that country one is assumed to be guilty until one has proven his innocence, and yet is never allowed to get before a court to prove his innocence.

Mr. Jamieson: Mr. Speaker, as I said at the outset, the question becomes whether or not the kind of initiative to which the hon. member referred will be beneficial in terms of the parties who are presently involved in a most unfortunate way. I can only repeat, and hope for his understanding, that we are taking all the steps which the best judgment we can put together concludes are in the interest of this particular Canadian citizen.

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● (1130)

NATIONAL DEFENCE

LOCATION OF DEFENCE RESEARCH LABORATORY—REASON FOR DELAY IN CONSTRUCTION

Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Acting Minister of Defence, but in his absence I will direct it to the Parliamentary Secretary for National Defence. The former minister of national defence, the hon. member for Winnipeg South, announced in 1974 that the defence research laboratory in Suffield, Alberta would be moved to the Tuxedo area in Winnipeg. At that time the minister also announced that construction would start in 1975. So far only land has been acquired for the laboratory. I should like to ask the parliamentary secretary if he could bring us up to date and tell us whether this defence research centre will be moved from Alberta to Winnipeg.

Mr. Maurice A. Dionne (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I should like to thank the hon. member for his courtesy in giving me advance notice of his question. I believe the hon. member did not quote the former minister of national defence quite correctly. In his statement in 1974 the minister referred to the establishment of a new research centre in Manitoba and the phasing out, not the moving, of the establishment in Suffield. To date the negotiations for land in Winnipeg have taken much longer than was anticipated, but they are now nearing completion and I am pleased to inform the hon. member that the new research

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establishment in Manitoba will be constructed in his constituency.

Some hon. Members: Shame.

Mr. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi): As a matter of fact, the lengthy negotiations have somewhat delayed the phasing out of the defence research establishment in Suffield, so that process will not follow the original schedule.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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PENSION ACT

POSSIBILITY OF AMENDMENT TO PROVISION RELATING TO PENSIONS FOR WIDOWS

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Veterans Affairs. In view of the introduction yesterday of a bill to amend the Pension Act which provides only for certain appointments to the Pension Review Board, could the minister disclose when he will introduce an amendment to the Pension Act to include widows of veterans who were receiving 48 per cent or less, since there is a large number of them?

Hon. Daniel J. MacDonald (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, may I say in answer to the first part of the question that the bill which was introduced yesterday is, I feel, a very worthwhile bill. It has become necessary because of the work that we anticipate in the near future.

With regard to further amendments to the Pension Act which would allow us to deal with widows' pensions in a different manner, the hon. member might recall that this year we gave priority to prisoners of war, something that I was very happy to do in a year of restraint. It necessitated an increase of \$10 million in our budget. With regard to veterans' widows' pensions, we have this matter under review. I cannot give the hon. member a definite date on it, however.

Mr. Marshall: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that there is an inequity in the Act in that it is stated that a widow of a war veteran who was receiving 48 per cent would get a full widow's pension but a widow whose husband received 1 per cent less, or 47 per cent, will get nothing. It seems to me that an inequity exists there which should be corrected as soon as possible by making a very simple amendment to the act. Would the minister consider this in light of the inflation which exists now and the resulting suffering which this causes veterans' widows?

Mr. MacDonald (Cardigan): Yes, Mr. Speaker, this is under consideration. We will certainly keep it in mind when we review the Act.