

Motions

● (1420)

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS*[English]***NATIONAL HEALTH AND WELFARE****AUTHORIZATION FOR STANDING COMMITTEE TO TRAVEL**

Mr. Doug Lewis (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, there have been discussions among the Parties and I think you will find unanimous consent to do two things. First, with respect to the Standing Committee on National Health and Welfare, I move:

That, the Standing Committee on National Health and Welfare be authorized to travel to Halifax, Nova Scotia, from April 12 to 15, 1987, inclusive to observe a course on orientation to chemical dependency pursuant to the committee's ongoing study of alcohol and drug abuse, and that the necessary staff accompany the committee.

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, I want to indicate that there have been consultations for a number of days. While we will certainly give unanimous consent to support the committee travelling to Halifax on this matter, I would like to add the note that we ought to be very cautious with regard to standing or special committees which want their representatives to travel to other parts of Canada to take courses. When we are funding people to attend courses to better inform themselves, that means they are not in the House of Commons or here participating in committees. We approve this today, but we will want to look very carefully, on an individual basis, at every request so that this will not become simply a matter of course.

Mr. George Henderson (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, I would like to confirm that the Official Opposition was consulted as well and agrees with this request for the committee to travel to Halifax to observe this course. We are in total agreement.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Members have heard the terms of the motion. Is it so agreed?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, we agreed earlier that there would be no further government business on this day. There were discussions with the other Parties well in advance of this time and I think you will find unanimous agreement to proceed to Private Members' Hour at this time and that 60 minutes after Private Members' Hour commences, or whenever the particular item of business is dealt with, the House will adjourn for the day.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Shall I call it four o'clock?

Mr. Riis: Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to commend my colleague, the Hon. Parliamentary Secretary. Discussions took place earlier today with regard to identifying

ways and means to facilitate the business of the House in terms of ensuring that the important legislation that must pass does in fact pass expeditiously. I simply want to go on record as saying that as an opposition Member I appreciate that approach to the business of the House of Commons.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): It being four o'clock p.m., the House will now proceed to the consideration of Private Members' Business as listed on today's Order Paper.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS--MOTIONS*[English]***CIVILIAN WAR PENSIONS AND ALLOWANCES ACT****PROPOSAL TO AMEND**

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver—Kingsway) moved:

That, in the opinion of this House, the government should consider the advisability of amending the Civilian War Pensions and Allowances Act by eliminating the condition for entitlement of serving at sea for at least six months in order that one trip through dangerous waters would be the only qualification necessary for the Civilian War Allowance on the part of Canadian merchant seamen.

He said: Mr. Speaker, this is a very fortunate day for me, having this motion drawn for debate. Yesterday was the seventieth anniversary of the great battle of Vimy Ridge. I noted today the remarks about the speech of the Hon. Minister of Veterans Affairs (Mr. Hees) who, according to the press, gave one of the most eloquent speeches of his long and distinguished career. The Hon. Minister said: "Our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren have understood and understand the ageless legacy of Vimy". He said that in the presence of 11 veterans in their 80s and 90s from different parts of Canada. The Minister recalled that day just over 70 years ago as "a day a nation was forged".

I and many of my colleagues in this House were not in the War. We are of the post-Second World War generation and were too young to serve in the Korean War. We are the beneficiaries of that for which the veterans fought. They fought, were injured, and died, or survived with scarred memories and difficult times. That is why I am very pleased to bring this motion forward for debate and consideration by the House today.

The motion reads:

That, in the opinion of this House, the government should consider the advisability of amending the Civilian War Pensions and Allowances Act by eliminating the condition for entitlement of serving at sea for at least six months in order that one trip through dangerous waters would be the only qualification necessary for the Civilian War Allowance on the part of Canadian merchant seamen.

Canadian merchant seamen also served in the war, Mr. Speaker. One of my constituents, Mr. John M. Bray, of 5876 Tyne Street in Vancouver, British Columbia, has been tireless in his pursuit of what he considers to be an injustice which is being done to merchant seamen. He has asked that it be