

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

planning officer of the Canadian coastguard college, it was announced today by Transport Minister J. W. Pickersgill.

We have a complete contradiction here—the answer I received yesterday from the minister completely contradicted by a press release put out under his name on October 16 when this appointment was definitely announced. The Minister of Transport said no such appointment was made because the college has yet to be established. Further on in his answers he tried to give reasons why Captain Brand was appointed.

What amazes me is that the Department of National Defence, despite their efforts and their claims that they were going to reduce the overhead costs of that department, in the year 1963-64 came up with a budget in excess of any other budget since 1956-57 when the Liberals were last in office. This department claims to have brought about a great deal of saving in its expenditures and as part of this economy program they are dismissing men from the Royal Canadian Navy in advance of their normal time for retirement—men of high qualifications; I could start with Admiral Brock and go down the list to show that the government has retired any number of competent men prematurely, men well capable of filling this situation. Yet this government, a government so anxious to save the taxpayers' money, is now reaching into the retired field to come up with the appointment announced on October 16, 1964. This announcement was made in the name of the Minister of Transport who yesterday in this house tried to maintain again, I repeat, with a complete disregard for the truth, that no such appointment had been made. This is why I say it is most unfortunate that when members have an opportunity to bring questions forward at this time the responsible minister is not present to reply to the charges.

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (President of the Privy Council): The question asked yesterday by the hon. member for Cape Breton South was:

Was it necessary for the department to reach into the ranks of the retired to find an administrator for the proposed coastguard college at Point Edward?

Of course, the answer is that no administrator has been appointed for the proposed coastguard college at Point Edward. It is clear from the hon. member's remarks that he objects to the appointment of Captain Eric Brand as planning officer to do the organizational work in setting up this coastguard college. The hon. member argues that it was

[Mr. MacInnis.]

not necessary to have a retired officer to do this job. I would merely reply that he is quite right. It was not necessary, but anyone who knows anything about the subject of the coastguard college or the qualifications of Captain Brand would agree at once that it is highly desirable that the government should reach into the ranks of the retired to get such an outstanding person on a limited contract basis to do the necessary planning to set up this college. In this way, it will be possible to provide the finest training for young persons who need such training before entering upon any of the activities which are open to them by way of careers whether in the Department of Transport, the shipping industry or related activities which they may wish to pursue.

Having known something of the quality of Captain Brand's work at the time the maritime commission legislation was prepared and enacted—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order; the minister's time has expired.

PENSIONS—CANADA PLAN—REQUEST FOR
EARLY CONSIDERATION OF
RESOLUTION

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, as hon. members are aware, I have been asking for the resolution which precedes the new Canada pension plan to be called for debate at an early date. I have pointed out that our new rules will limit such a debate to one day and therefore, if this item of government business could be called, we could have the bill introduced and move one step further toward the adoption of this desirable measure.

When I put a further question about this matter to the Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson) on orders of the day this afternoon he suggested that interim supply had higher priority, and in answer to a supplementary question he said that a day or two would not make any difference to the Canada pension plan. That of course was the reason I gave notice I would raise this question in the overtime period tonight. Putting this pension plan off for a day or two may not sound serious, but this is what has been going on since the present government came to power in the early part of 1963. We have been put off and put off with respect to this legislation until some of us wonder whether we will ever really get it.

I recognize, as all hon. members do, that the government has the full say as to what