

VETERANS AFFAIRS

POSSIBLE DEDUCTION OF INCREASE IN DISABILITY PENSION FROM WAR VETERAN'S ALLOWANCE—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Veterans Affairs. Is it correct that a veteran who is receiving both the war veterans allowance and disability pension—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member cannot ask the question in those terms.

Mr. McKenzie: Is a veteran going to have his disability pension increase deducted from his war veterans allowance pension, thereby receiving no increase whatsoever?

Hon. Daniel J. MacDonald (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, with regard to that, each case is different. In some cases he is receiving a disability pension and therefore possibly would not receive war veterans allowance. Each case is different.

Mr. McKenzie: The idea behind the disability pension increase was to cope with the cost of living. If this increase is going to be deducted from him—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member appreciates this is an argument, not a question.

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

ALLEGED TAKING OF MONEY FROM INDIVIDUALS PRIVATE BANK ACCOUNT TO REPAY INDEBTEDNESS TO COMMISSION

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the minister for the Unemployment Insurance Commission and deals with the invasion of privacy of the individual. Does the minister propose to continue with the practice now enforced by the UIC staff whereby they raid a private individual's bank account and take from that account moneys to pay indebtedness to the UIC without the signature of the owners of that private bank account?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I should most certainly want to have the specific instances and evidence of that before I would reply. If that in any way were the case, I would take steps to prevent it, but I am certainly not aware of it and I should like to have the clear evidence.

Mr. Hales: May I call it ten o'clock so that I can present the minister—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please! The Chair has no objection to the House calling it ten o'clock right now, but I gather there is intervening business.

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Oral Questions

LABOUR RELATIONS

DISPUTE WITH NON-OPERATING RAILWAY EMPLOYEES—CONTINGENCY PLAN TO GET SUPPLIES TO NEWFOUNDLAND IN EVENT OF STRIKE

Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the right hon. Prime Minister. In view of the heavy dependency on the province of Newfoundland on an inadequate transportation system which would be completely disrupted with any strike, does the government have any contingency plan to accommodate the dependency we have on imports of all foodstuffs and building materials as well as the dependency of the tourist trade on that system?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, that question was asked by the Leader of the Opposition at the very beginning today and I replied to it.

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, a point of order.

Mr. Speaker: The Leader of the Opposition on a point of order.

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, I know that the right hon. gentleman did not mean to create a wrong impression but I did not ask the question about Newfoundland; my question was of quite a different nature.

Mr. Lundrigan: Mr. Speaker, I am sure the Prime Minister did not hear my question correctly, so I wonder if I could ask it again. Does the government have a contingency plan for transportation to the province of Newfoundland in the event of an unfortunate strike, bearing in mind the unique nature of the province and its dependency on the transportation system for all foodstuffs, all its industrial materials and its exports, as well as its dependency on the tourist trade?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I did deal with that question generally, and it was a question asked by the Leader of the Opposition as regards the economy of Canada in general. I can assure the hon. member that I do not propose to deal with any province in a particular way. I will deal with each province and each regional situation as it needs.

Mr. Speaker: The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Gander-Twillingate on a supplementary and then the hon. member for Vancouver Kingsway.

Mr. Lundrigan: The right hon. Prime Minister seems to be quite an expert on international affairs since his trip to Cuba. I wonder if he would take a few moments from his busy schedule—

Mr. Guay (St. Boniface): Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: Oh yourself, Joe!

Mr. Lundrigan:—one of these months to realize that the province of Newfoundland is an island.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Would the hon. member kindly resume his seat?

Mr. Lundrigan: His ignorance is abominable.