

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member is making a representation rather than asking a question.

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#### ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

##### REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO LEGAL AID PROGRAMS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. S. Perry Ryan (Spadina):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Justice. Is the government going to respond to the plea of the Canadian Civil Liberties Association for more financial assistance to legal aid programs?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker, it may not have been brought to the attention of the Civil Liberties Association but I thought it would have come to the attention of the hon. member that in the Speech from the Throne we indicated our intention to take certain steps to assist in the development of legal aid programs in Canada.

##### ALLEGED NEED FOR POLICE WARNING OF ACCUSED ON RIGHT TO SILENCE AND TO COUNSEL—GOVERNMENT ACTION

**Mr. S. Perry Ryan (Spadina):** I have a supplementary question with regard to another request from the association. Is the association's request that police be required to inform an accused of his right to silence, counsel or subsidized legal aid going to be granted and, if so, when may we expect legislation to be introduced?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker, as I answered to a very similar question in the House yesterday, the question of any changes in our criminal procedures is one which is being examined by the Law Reform Commission as well as within the Department of Justice. I foresee changes in the criminal law on a fairly frequent basis in the future. As I indicated to the House, questions like this will be considered by the commission, the department and the government.

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#### VETERANS AFFAIRS

##### SAILORS' MEMORIAL, HALIFAX—POSSIBILITY OF SECURING NATIONAL FINANCING

**Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax-East Hants):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Veterans Affairs. Will the minister again look into the question whether the sailors memorial in south-end Halifax can be considered a national monument and given national financing since that memorial represents the sacrifice of a country rather than the sacrifice of a community?

**Hon. Arthur Laing (Minister of Veterans Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, these monuments are not the responsibility of my department, but I will certainly take the hon. member's representations into account.

#### Inquiries of the Ministry

##### POSSIBLE INCREASE IN DISABILITY PENSIONS—REQUEST FOR REFERENCE TO STANDING COMMITTEE FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

**Mr. William Knowles (Norfolk-Haldimand):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to draw the attention of the Minister of Veterans Affairs to a question which I directed to his parliamentary secretary yesterday. It is recorded on page 2754 of yesterday's *Hansard*. Can the minister give me an answer before the question period is over?

##### INQUIRY AS TO AMENDMENT OF VETERANS LAND ACT

**Mr. Bill Knight (Assiniboia):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Veterans Affairs. In view of the fact the Minister of Agriculture has introduced a bill to amend the Farm Credit Act which will increase the limit on loans, can the minister inform the House whether he will be proposing any amendments or changes to the Veterans Land Act?

**Hon. Arthur Laing (Minister of Veterans Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, there has been a disinclination on the part of the Department of Veterans Affairs to extend and expand the opportunity for veterans to go into farming. It has been regarded as a phase-out operation. If there are amendments to the Farm Credit Act, there will probably be some parallel legislation required in our field.

**Mr. Speaker:** Orders of the day.

**Mr. Rowland:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege with regard to the response I received from the minister responsible for the wheat board to my earlier question. In relation to that, I wish to refer to the reply to order paper question No. 397 of the last session of Parliament, dated November 9, 1970. In answer to a similar question I received the following answer from the Department of Transport:

The U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (specifically Section 207.441 of Title 33) covering security regulations for the St. Marys Falls canal and locks prohibits passage of "vessels of the Sino-Soviet block countries" through the Soo locks. This would appear to prevent passages of vessels from these countries via U.S. waters to all Canadian ports on Lake Superior.

In light of that response, I think the minister should reconsider his reply.

**Mr. Speaker:** That is possible, but it cannot be brought to the attention of the House by way of a question of privilege. Is the hon. member for Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe rising on a question of privilege?

• (1220)

**Mr. Marshall:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the Minister of Veterans Affairs was aware of the question asked by the hon. member for Norfolk-Haldimand (Mr. Knowles) in connection with basic rates of pension. I wonder why he did not answer the question.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The question period has ended. I assume that the question can be asked again and answered at the beginning of next week.