

Supply—Health and Welfare

that earlier this year we increased the interest rate in an effort to encourage a greater flow of mortgage money into housing and it is expected the result will be a good housing program in Canada this year.

INQUIRY AS TO REDEVELOPMENT IN MONTREAL

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. M. Hamilton (Noire Dame de Grace): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Public Works. Has the minister received a copy of an order in council recently passed by the Quebec government and printed in the *Gazette* this morning and, if so, will that be sufficient to enable the federal government to complete its arrangements and make advances to Montreal for a slum clearance and housing project there?

Hon. Robert H. Winters (Minister of Public Works): I did receive a copy of the order in council. The situation is as I stated a few days ago. The premier of Quebec stated that in principle his government had no objection to entering into an agreement with the federal government for a slum clearance project and a subsequent re-housing project. It is now a matter for the civic authorities to come to an agreement with the provincial authorities and I presume steps are being taken to that end. I expect that in due course we shall have a proposal put before us coming through the appropriate channels.

Mr. Hamilton (Noire Dame de Grace): A supplementary question. Does the minister feel that complete agreement has now been reached and the necessary authorization given by the province in order to permit action by the province and the federal government?

Mr. Winters: No agreement has been reached. All I have so far is an indication of intention to sign an agreement.

VETERANS AFFAIRS

COLONEL BELCHER HOSPITAL, CALGARY—STATEMENT ON BOARD OF INQUIRY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. C. E. Bennett (Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, yesterday the hon. member for Bow River asked for an explanation regarding the composition of the board of inquiry promised by the Minister of Veterans Affairs (Mr. Lapointe) in answer to a question asked by the hon. member for Bow River on Tuesday last. The board set up by the minister is a fact-finding body only which will report the facts to the minister. The minister did use the words "independent board of inquiry" as reported in *Hansard* for 67509—420½

Tuesday, July 24, but he used the word "independent" in the sense that the facts of this incident would be collected by a board to be composed of members who were not directly involved in the incident. The members of the board, all senior officials of the Department of Veterans Affairs, are as follows: Mr. W. G. Roaf, regional administrator for western Canada, Dr. J. K. Mulloy, senior treatment medical officer, Calgary district, Mr. E. M. Scott, district administrator for Edmonton district.

Mr. C. E. Johnston (Bow River): May I ask the minister a supplementary question. How can there be an impartial investigation when only those who are connected with D.V.A. are conducting the investigation? Surely they should be outside D.V.A.?

Mr. Bennett: These three officials who are collecting the facts will present them to the minister and I am quite sure that with their experience they will be able to collect all the facts.

Mr. Johnston (Bow River): They are officials of D.V.A.?

Mr. Bennett: Yes.

Mr. Johnston (Bow River): They can hardly be impartial.

SUPPLY

The house in committee of supply, Mr. Robinson (Simcoe East) in the chair.

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND WELFARE
Welfare branch—

Family allowances and old age security—
278. Administration, \$2,693,059.

Mr. Blackmore: Mr. Chairman, when the committee adjourned last night I had been discussing a set of figures found in the report of the welfare council of Winnipeg. These figures, to be found at page 16 of that report, have to do with the amount of money which it is felt an old age pensioner ought to have in order to be able to live in Winnipeg in anything like comfort. The figures are as follows:

	Per month
Rent	\$20
Food	30
Clothing	10
Church	2
Medical insurance or care	3
Memberships and hobbies	5
Transportation	4.50
Incidentals	5
Laundry	2

I had pointed out that those commodities or services are all produced in Canada and I believe that every item is produced in Manitoba. I had suggested that it is most fantastic that in a country with probably