

Suggested Pension Payment Corrections

predecessor and placed under the chairmanship of Justice Mervyn Woods was asked to study the Pension Act. The hon. member for Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe (Mr. Marshall) who spoke before me was inquiring about the report of this committee.

As I have already pointed out briefly to the house, and I wish to take the opportunity to recall it again to the interested parties—this report is not forgotten. In fact, the officials of my department as well as of other departments have been asked to study thoroughly the scope of the recommendations and the cost of their application. Those who have taken the trouble to glance at this report have realized its complexity. It can easily be noted that it is lengthy, containing nearly 1300 pages and 148 recommendations. These recommendations, their scope and their cost must be studied—

[English]

Mr. McIntosh: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Order. The hon. member for Swift Current-Maple Creek on a point of order.

Mr. McIntosh: I am sure that the house appreciates everything the minister has been saying, but I think he is a great distance away from the subject before the house tonight. What he is giving is a resumé of veterans legislation, including the pensions act, which has absolutely nothing to do with war veterans allowance. When I asked you in the first place, Mr. Speaker, if you would give the minister an opportunity to speak tonight, I was quite sure that he would unveil some new legislation with regard to war veterans allowance. I think that is what we want to hear, not a resumé of veterans legislation in general. We will have an opportunity later on for that.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Order. I imagine that the legislation will come later.

Mr. Dubé: Mr. Speaker, what the hon. member for Swift Current-Maple Creek (Mr. McIntosh) wishes to hear may not be exactly what his colleague wishes to hear. I am trying to answer the question posed by his own confrere with regard to the Woods committee report. If he does not wish to hear more about the report I will—

Mr. McIntosh: I wish to hear about the War Veterans Allowance Act, which is what we are talking about tonight. Tell us something about that.

[Mr. Dubé.]

Mr. Dubé: If only the hon. member would contain himself and listen to what I have to say, he would have heard plenty about the history of the War Veterans Allowance Act.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, as I already said, the Woods report has certainly not fallen into oblivion. The government is preparing a White Paper to be submitted to the committee on veterans affairs simultaneously with the report, and when those studies have been carried through, parliament will then pass all necessary legislation. The hon. member who has just interrupted me as well as all other hon. members will be I hope quite happy about the results.

With respect more specifically to veterans benefits, if the hon. member who has just asked a question is expecting a statement tonight, he should know through his experience in this house that this would be most untimely. We simply wish, in reply to the notice of motion of the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre, supply hon. members with whatever information they need to make their minds up and to vote with full knowledge of the facts when the government introduces measures aimed at settling the problems which have just been raised.

Mr. Speaker, at the very beginning of the debate, I pointed out that most Canadian veterans, approximately one million, managed to settle down quite well within the Canadian community. As regards those who are members of special groups to which I referred earlier and which the government is trying to help by providing them with disability pensions when necessary, or allowances when they do not qualify, the cabinet acknowledges its responsibility and tries quite hard to safeguard the rights of veterans as a token of recognition for the great services they rendered the Canadian nation.

The present government, following in the footsteps of the ones that have preceded it, is doing its duty towards the veterans. We want to do more and, eventually, we shall do more. But, before ending my comments, I can say with pride that the Canadian government ranks with the most generous ones in its dealings with the veterans.

• (9:00 p.m.)

[English]

Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate): May I ask the minister a question, Mr. Speaker. He referred to Newfoundland forestry personnel who went overseas and took part in the war. I know the minister is aware of the