

PENSION ESCALATION ANNOUNCED IN BUDGET—  
INQUIRY AS TO SIMILAR ACTION FOR RETIRED PUBLIC  
SERVANTS

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, my question is supplementary to the one asked a moment ago by the Leader of the Opposition. I should like to direct it to the President of the Treasury Board. In view of the fact that old age and veterans pensions are now to be escalated in accordance with the actual rise in the cost of living, will the President of the Treasury Board be bringing down legislation to provide the same condition in respect of pensions of retired public servants and others who come under federal jurisdiction?

**Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, if the hon. gentleman is asking whether we are bringing down the same legislation the answer is no. He probably is aware of the arrangements under which supernnuates' pensions are escalated. Contributions to such pensions are made by the employer, the government, and the present employees and before we can alter the present arrangement it is quite apparent that consultation with the employees' representatives would have to take place.

PENSION ESCALATION ANNOUNCED IN BUDGET—  
SIMILAR ACTION REGARDING RAILWAY PENSIONS

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question in the same area I should like to direct to the Minister of Transport. Now that other pensions are being put on an escalation basis that is related to the actual cost of living, what is the Minister of Transport doing with regard to railway pensions, both Canadian National and Canadian Pacific?

**Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, on the matter of Canadian National pensions, even before my colleague the Minister of Finance brought down his budget last night I had held discussions with Canadian National. These have been progressing over a matter of several weeks now. The president of Canadian National is at present out of the country but expects to be back on the 15th. I believe he will have some proposals for me at that time.

As for the CPR, as I have indicated on previous occasions I have conveyed to them the representations of the hon. member and others, but from a legal point of view we have no power, of course, to require the Canadian Pacific to do anything.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. There are three or four members seeking to ask supplementary questions. We must try to make some headway. The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre for one supplementary question, then the hon. member for Gander-Twillingate for a supplementary to his question, and then we will go to the hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, if this has to be my last supplementary question in this area

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today, may I ask the Minister of Transport whether he will again approach the Canadian Pacific in view of the fact that last week excessive profits were announced by that company? Surely these could be used to improve the pensions of those who made these profits possible.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. That question is in the form of a representation, of course.

INTENTION OF BUDGET WITH RESPECT TO  
UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL

**Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate):** Mr. Speaker, perhaps I might rephrase my earlier question to the Minister of Finance. In view of his undertaking several days ago to indicate some of his expectations in his budget in so far as employment is concerned, will he very briefly indicate to the House whether his budget is aimed at keeping unemployment at the 6 per cent level or can we expect a substantial reduction? I ask this in view of the fact that obviously his budget would have to be based on some knowledge of what his expectations may be.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Even as rephrased I suggest the question is not in order. The hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings.

**Mr. Hees:** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary for the Minister of Finance—

**Mr. Speaker:** I have to apologize to the hon. member. The hon. member for Gander-Twillingate has a point of order.

**Mr. Lundrigan:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I am simply asking the minister to give us some indication of what his budget will do in terms of the unemployment level, whether it will bring it down or keep it at the same level. I suggest that this question is very much along the line—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings.

SUGGESTED INTERRUPTION OF BUDGET DEBATE TO  
IMPLEMENT PENSION CHANGES

**Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance. Will the government give consideration to interrupting the budget debate so that it may immediately introduce legislation dealing with the proposed changes in respect of old age, veterans, blind and disabled pensions outlined last night so that these changes proposed by the government, though inadequate, may be dealt with immediately and not delayed until—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member will appreciate that the question as asked is debate, but perhaps the minister again might be allowed to reply to some of the questions asked in the last few minutes.

**Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance):** The hon. member surprises me. That is a very good idea.