

*Interim Supply*

date with recommendations which will substantially improve the financial condition of those who are now receiving disability benefits.

There is one other matter I wish to deal with. It is the situation existing in the Shaughnessy Hospital, Vancouver, with respect to the rates of pay of nursing orderlies. I will not go into detail; the Minister is familiar with the situation. A short time ago, after I had asked a question in the House, the Minister appeared to have found a solution to this problem. He repeated a statement he had made earlier to the effect that the matter was under consideration. I believe the time has come for a definite solution to be found. I believe those working in the Shaughnessy Hospital should receive incomes comparable with those received by people working in other similar institutions in the City of Vancouver. At the present time I understand there is a wide differential in these rates of pay received by nursing orderlies in the Shaughnessy Hospital as compared with their counterparts in other institutions in the city. The problem is so acute, now, that there is a real danger of deterioration in the standard of care which is given to the veterans in this institution. Not long ago I received a clipping—I do not have it here at this moment—outlining the danger which veterans are facing in this institution because the staff is short-handed, orderlies are leaving, and new ones are being brought in constantly. All this is jeopardizing the care which our veterans are justified in expecting at this hospital.

• (6:10 p.m.)

I am not saying anything about the type of care that is being given to the full limits of the capacity of those who are engaged there; but because of these situations they are not able to cope with the problem and continue the high standard of care that is expected and desired. I notice that the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Veterans Affairs is here, and I hope he will convey to the Minister these particular problems and bring them to his attention once again with a view to having this situation rectified.

The other matter to which I want to call attention once again concerns superannuated civil servants. Here again is a matter that has been referred to many times and the Minister of Justice knows all about the problem.

**Mr. Knowles:** He ought to.

**Mr. Patterson:** The hon. Member for Winnipeg North Centre said, "He ought to know", and I appreciate the fact that this hon. Member has made representations on this matter on many occasions, and others of us have done likewise. I think it is pathetic that some of the superannuated civil servants are expected to get by on the pittance they are now receiving. I know that many excuses are given. One excuse that is given, for instance, is that many of them are benefiting by other general legislation that has been passed, and so on. But I do not believe this should affect the pension that should be received by superannuated civil servants.

Many of these people have given long years of public service; they have served admirably in the public service of this country. Now they are eking out a bare existence, and I feel that the Government, if it would, could find some way of providing more adequate pensions to those who have been on pension for some time and are still receiving such a pitiful amount in this respect. Mr. Chairman, I would ask the Minister of Finance once again to consider this whole matter. I suppose he would say it is constantly under review. Perhaps that is the trouble; it is constantly under review but very little is being done about it. I would ask, in the closing hours of this session, that once again the Minister give attention to this particular problem and try to do something to assist those who are suffering because of the inadequate pension they have received throughout the years.

**Mr. Cowan:** Mr. Chairman, at this time when we are considering the granting of four months supply to the Government, rather than considering the annual appropriation of funds, there are two points I would like to raise in the closing moments of this session. It is three years ago this month that I was first elected to the Parliament of Canada, and this is the third time I have been placed in the position of speaking on matters of national importance on the day Parliament is going to adjourn. The timing of the debates and the timing of discussions on national expenditures could, believe me, be better arranged than I have witnessed during these three years.

I believe that every Member of the House is aware of the fact that I could not support the legislation with regard to the printing of bogus Canadian editions in this country. I stated publicly that I could not support the legislation because it granted exemptions to