

Order Paper Questions

regarding petitions, and I hope I will be able to abide by the ruling.

I have before me the names of 4,012 constituents of my riding of Halton who are indeed concerned about the insensitive attitude of the government toward the plight of home owners and the very real threat of their losing their homes because of high mortgage rates. I would like to present these 4,012 names as a petition to this House of Commons, demanding that the Minister of Finance (Mr. MacEachen) include in his forthcoming budget provisions that will alleviate the economic burdens that high interest rates have created for unsuspecting home owners and/or potential home owners.

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PENSION ACT**MEASURE RESPECTING APPEAL PROCESS FOR VETERANS**

Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg-Assiniboine) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-641, to amend the Pension Act (administrative delay).

Some hon. Members: Explain.

Mr. McKenzie: Madam Speaker, I wish to make just a few brief remarks respecting the bill I am introducing today. This bill would amend the Pension Act. It would impose a 90-day limit at the initial stage and a 45-day limit at each of the two levels in the appeal process. If a decision was not made within any of those periods, the applicant veteran would automatically be awarded the full amount claimed by him.

What this means is that the Department of Veterans Affairs would have to complete all three stages of a veteran's pension application within six months. If it can be done within 90 days in the United States, surely to goodness we in Canada can do it in six months. At the present time it takes an average of 46 months to process a pension application, and this is totally unacceptable to hon. members on this side of the House and particularly to members of the Conservative Party.

I am limited in what I can present in a piece of legislation, but the Minister of Veterans Affairs (Mr. Campbell) and the government are not limited in what they can present in a piece of legislation. I hope the McCracken study will be completed by next month and that the Minister of Veterans Affairs will introduce a piece of legislation similar to legislation in the United States, so that we can have a process in Canada whereby we can process pension applications within 90 days and not five years.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

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QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. David Smith (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Madam Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: Nos. 2,316, 2,390, 2,664, 2,698 and 3,012.

[Text]

THE NATIONAL

Question No. 2,316—**Mr. McKenzie:**

Was a decision made to change the time of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's newscast "The National" from 11 p.m. to 10 p.m. and, if so (a) on what premise (b) what will be the cost and in what manner will it be paid?

Mr. Jack Masters (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Communications): I am informed by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation as follows: It was announced by the CBC in March, 1980 that "The National" would be telecast at 10 p.m. on week nights. This change is expected to take place early in 1982.

(a) The decision was made following a thorough study which concluded that 10 p.m. was the best time in the evening schedule for the CBC's national information program, in part because the total viewing audience at 10 p.m. is estimated at 7½ million, compared with 4.2 million at 11 p.m. The earlier time also makes it possible to mount a major daily current affairs program immediately following "The National". This program will run until 11 p.m. on week nights and, with "The National", will provide a full hour of comprehensive news and current affairs coverage at a convenient time for most viewers.

(b) The basic cost of "The National" will remain unchanged.

CBC EXPENDITURES

Question No. 2,390—**Mr. Herbert:**

What percentage of the total expenditures of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation was spent (a) in Quebec (b) outside Canada in the last year for which figures are available?

Mr. Jack Masters (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Communications): I am informed by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation as follows: In the fiscal year 1980/81: (a) 32.35 per cent; (b) 0.39 per cent.

NOTE: Re (a)—relates to expenditures in Quebec in respect of the following: French services division, Montreal English services, Ottawa area, northern service and head office, Radio Canada International, and engineering headquarters.

Re (b)—relates to CBC's foreign offices.

FATHERS OF CONFEDERATION MEMORIAL CITIZENS' FOUNDATION

Question No. 2,664—**Mr. Herbert:**

1. Did the government provide funds to the Fathers of Confederation Memorial Citizens' Foundation and, if so, in what amount, on what date and under what conditions?

2. Is there an arrangement for continuing the funding and, if so, what are the conditions?

Mr. Jack Masters (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Communications): In so far as the Department of Communi-