

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Thursday, March 12, 1992

The House met at 10 a.m.

Prayers

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[*English*]

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO PETITIONS

Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36(8), I have the honour to table, in both official languages, the government's response to several petitions.

[*Editor's Note: See today's Votes and Proceedings.*]

* * *

INTERPARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION

10TH REPORT OF CANADIAN NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION

Mr. Bob Hicks (Scarborough East): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 34, I have the honour to present to the House the 10th report, in both official languages, of the Canadian NATO Parliamentary Association.

* * *

WAR VETERANS ALLOWANCE ACT

MEASURE TO AMEND

Mr. Ronald J. Duhamel (St. Boniface) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-338, an act to amend the War Veterans Allowance Act (retroactive payments).

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): Pursuant to Standing Order 68(2), the motion is deemed adopted.

Mr. Duhamel: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a private member's bill entitled an act to amend the War Veterans Allowance Act on retroactive payments.

The intent of the bill is very simple. The bill intends to allow for retroactivity in the area of widows' pensions. The present legislation does not allow for any retroactive claims.

I have proposed that the legislation be modified so that it would be possible to apply for the widows' allowance and receive payments retroactively from the date the claim is filed, not exceeding the death of the veteran. Too often it is the case that, through no fault of their own, these people have not received a pension to which they are entitled. I know of one gentleman who at age 81 found out that he could have received a supplementary allowance, but it was only retroactive in that case 14 months. In this case there is no retroactivity.

• (1010)

I intend to bring forth other similar bills in the very near future. My basic principle is that if government can collect the money it is owed by Canadians—and I believe that should be so—in turn Canadians, the people, should be able to collect the money their government owes them.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): Mr. Duhamel moves that the bill be now read the first time and printed.

Pursuant to Standing Order 69(1), the motion is deemed adopted.

Bill read the first time and printed.

* * *

PETITIONS

CRIMES OF VIOLENCE

Mr. Stan Keyes (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36, I have the honour, duty and privilege to present to this House a petition certified correct by the clerk of petitions.

It is signed by residents who live in and around the Hamilton area: Beamsville, Ancaster and Hamilton.