

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

I think the hon. member for Kootenay West also asked a question last Thursday, but I believe I already have given the answer. As soon as I have an opportunity I hope to introduce the adjustments to the war disability pensions, the war veterans allowances and ceilings on income. As the Prime Minister made clear, these are interim measures so far as disability pensions are concerned, and other measures will be coming in at a later date.

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam):** May I ask a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that the minister suggests these will be temporary measures to raise the disability pensions and war veterans allowances through estimates and not through legislation, there will be no obstacle in the way of his making an announcement to the house before the estimates are brought in. I should like to ask the minister whether he can give us any idea what increase will be granted and when it is likely to be effective, because this is a matter about which members are receiving a great deal of correspondence. It would help the veterans if they knew when this is likely to take place and what the percentage is likely to be.

**Mr. Teillet:** I can answer one part of that question, Mr. Speaker, as to an effective date. The hope is that it will be September 1, 1966. I have had some preliminary discussions with other people in the house on this and it is the hope that we can bring this measure in as quickly as possible, with perhaps the opportunity for a more complete debate on the matter at some later date.

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition):** I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. First I should like to say, if I may make this observation, that I am glad the minister is taking action, but I am disappointed with the suggestion made by him, if I understood him correctly, that the veterans 69 years of age and over who become qualified for the old age pension will have their war veterans allowance reduced. I ask the minister, will he not give real consideration to this matter? A grave injustice is being done. I am not blaming this on the government, but I am saying a grave injustice is being done to the veterans who today are in the latter part of their lives and find themselves unable to carry on with the reduced amount of their war veterans allowance.

[Mr. Teillet.]

**Mr. Teillet:** Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether I can interpret that as a question, but I have indicated we have no intention, or I have no intention, of recommending to the government that the principle of the War Veterans' Allowance Act be changed. I did indicate, however, that I would be bringing in a recommendation respecting an adjustment of the ceiling on income for war veterans allowance recipients which in some measure will meet the request; but I am not at all inclined to recommend a change to the principle of the act.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** It is pretty hard on the old soldiers.

**Mr. G. L. Chatterton (Esquimalt-Saanich):** I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Could the minister tell us when he expects to introduce amendments to the Pension Act other than in respect of pension rates, which were promised in 1964.

**Mr. Teillet:** Mr. Speaker, as I indicated a moment ago, I think it would be foolhardy for me to indicate a date, because I think I should wait for the report of the Wood committee which may well recommend far reaching amendments to the Canadian pension commission act. I think it would be wise for me to wait until I have that report before I indicate what the legislation will be and when I can bring it in.

**TRANSPORT****REPORTED SHORTAGE OF RAILWAY CARS FOR LIVESTOCK**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. J. H. Horner (Acadia):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. Is he aware of a severe livestock railway car shortage which is building up in the prairies, and will he take action to see that conditions are not repeated such as existed last fall, when livestock began to move and there were no railway cars to move them?

**Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member was courteous enough to indicate that he was going to ask this question. This gave me an opportunity to consult with the management of the Canadian National Railways. They are aware that in the last few days a shortage has been developing, and they are taking the most urgent action to meet the problem.