

Business of the House

Hon. Tom Hockin (Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, I would have been able to answer this question better if I had been given notice. It is a serious and very specific question. I should say this. She knows of the proceedings with regard to these two banks being in receivership and being dealt with by the trustee making decisions on these matters. There is a difference between depositors and employees, and they are treated under difference processes, but I will certainly take her representations to the authorities in order to make sure that they are aware of the importance of this.

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid that this will have to be the last question. I would call on the Hon. Member for Beaches who, I understand, has a question.

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VETERAN AFFAIRS**VETERANS INDEPENDENCE PROGRAM—EXPANSION OF COVERAGE**

Mr. Neil Young (Beaches): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Veterans Affairs. It may very well be the last chance that I have to ask the Minister a question in the House or, indeed, for him to give a response. I regret that very much, because the Minister's work has been appreciated by all Members on all sides of the House.

All Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

● (1210)

Mr. Young: Certainly it has been appreciated by the veterans in Canada, Mr. Speaker. Now comes the hard question.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Young: I am always reluctant to ask the Minister a question because I always manage to make him look good.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Young: In June of this year the Minister announced to the Canadian Convention of the Legion that he intended to expand the Veterans Independence Program to cover those veterans who served only in Canada in the First and Second World Wars.

Is the Minister in a position to announce when that will happen?

Hon. George Hees (Minister of Veterans Affairs and Minister of State (Seniors)): Yes, Mr. Speaker. To start with I would like to thank all Hon. Members for their very kind and generous expression of goodwill which they accorded me a few moments ago. This is one of the reasons that makes serving in Parliament the finest profession that anyone can have. I have enjoyed it tremendously, not only because of the work that we are all able to do but because of the associations that we make,

not only with Members in our own Party but with Members in all other Parties. After all, everyone is here trying to do a job for the people of Canada.

Although our debates may at times get hot and overheated, they are just like football or hockey games. The teams play very hard against each other for an hour, and then usually sit with one another and have a beer.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Hees: That is the spirit I have always found here. I have just as many friends on the other side of the House as I have in my own Party. I like them all very much. I have received tremendous support and friendship from Members on my own side of the House, and I appreciate so much the very nice accord given to me a few moments ago.

I appreciate receiving the question that I have from the Hon. Member for Beaches who has always shown a tremendous interest in veterans and their welfare. He has continued to do so all the years I have known him, and I know he will always continue to show this interest in the veterans of Canada.

In answer to the question, I am very pleased to advise that effective April 1, 1989, the Veterans Independence Program will be extended to our veterans who served in Canada during both World Wars.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: This is the last day before the break. There is some indication that there is one question for the Deputy Prime Minister. The time for Question Period is over but the Deputy Prime Minister might be prepared to take the question. It is up to the Minister to indicate whether he is prepared to do so although the time has expired.

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**WEEKLY STATEMENT**

Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan): Mr. Speaker, perhaps it is appropriate to ask the normal business question of the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Mazankowski) so that we have an understanding as to what the business of the House will be when we come back after the break. I also have a question regarding the Election Expenses Act.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for Thunder Bay—Atikokan (Mr. Angus) has raised a question of the Deputy Prime Minister. Undoubtedly because he has other business he has left the House and it is well beyond the end of Question Period. Perhaps the Minister of State will be prepared to respond.