

major component units of this great confederation. They have contributed their share to the cost of public works in other parts of the dominion. They should not be forgotten when their needs are greatest, when they ask for the public works they so greatly need and so richly deserve, particularly when the project for which they ask is for the good and benefit of the whole dominion.

On motion of Mr. McCann the debate was adjourned.

At eleven o'clock the house adjourned, without question put, pursuant to standing order.

Friday, May 9, 1947

The house met at three o'clock.

RADIO BROADCASTING

CONCURRENCE IN FIRST REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE

Mr. RALPH MAYBANK (Winnipeg South Centre) presented the first report of the special committee on radio broadcasting, and moved that the report be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

VETERANS AFFAIRS

DISABLED VETERANS ATTENDING UNIVERSITY— FULL TRAINING ALLOWANCE AND FULL PENSION

Right Hon. IAN A. MACKENZIE (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I wish to table P.C. 1668, amending the regulations under the Veterans Rehabilitation Act. The effect is to allow pensioners in receipt of training benefit to be paid full pension and full training allowance. Hitherto a disability pensioner on training benefit has received less than the combined maximum.

Where there are dependents the pensioner will receive the full augmentation of training allowances applicable to dependents as heretofore and the total amount of pension to which he is entitled as a single man.

This amendment will ease the lot of disabled veterans attending university or other training courses and will, we hope, encourage others to take training.

The regulations permit outside earnings up to \$75 a month, but the disabled veteran is less able than his physically fit companion to take advantage of this legislation. By allowing him to receive the full amount of both pension and allowances, we remove what has proved to be a real handicap upon the pensioner.

[Mr. McGarry.]

Mr. FULTON: May I ask the minister when the order in council which he has just tabled will become effective, and whether its provisions are retroactive in effect?

Mr. MACKENZIE: The provisions are effective forthwith, but they will not be retroactive.

FUEL OIL

STATEMENT ON DOMESTIC SUPPLY POSITION

Right Hon. C. D. HOWE (Minister of Reconstruction and Supply): Mr. Speaker, I feel that I should make a statement on fuel oil. Last summer I convened a meeting of the various oil producing and distributing companies for the purpose of reviewing the domestic fuel oil situation. Hon. members will recall that at that time there was very serious concern about our coal supply, arising partly because of the coal strike in the United States and partly because of the shipping strike on the great lakes.

The oil companies agreed that if they were given assistance in the creation of storage facilities, they could meet the increasing demand for domestic fuel oil. Assistance was rendered by the steel controller to the oil companies and to the burner manufacturers. As a result, a considerable number of heating units were installed in domestic establishments throughout Canada.

I am now advised that the fuel oil supply for the next heating season is definitely limited, and that the producers and distributors will not be able to cope with the greatly increased demand. In fact it has been stated by some of the companies that there may be difficulty in providing oil to existing customers.

The demand for fuel oil has become so acute that even were it possible to provide substantially increased storage facilities, it is most unlikely that adequate supplies of oil could be imported or produced.

The government has no control at present over the production and distribution of fuel oil. Responsibility for supply rests wholly on the oil companies and their agents. I am bringing the matter to the attention of the house in order that the Canadian public may be warned of the situation that obtains. In our view, any householder who is proposing to instal an oil burner or oil burning space heater in his home should first make sure that he has a firm contract for the supply of fuel oil directly with the manufacturer or importer of fuel oil, or a contract that otherwise clearly ensures a supply of fuel oil from these suppliers.