STATUTE LAW (MILITARY AND CIVILIAN WAR PENSIONS, COMPENSATION AND ALLOWANCES) AMENDMENT ACT, 1980

CALL FOR REDUCTION IN PHASING-IN PERIOD RESPECTING BENEFITS TO WIDOWS OF DISABLED VETERANS—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Hon. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Madam Speaker, under the provisions of Standing Order 43, and seconded by the hon. member for Oshawa (Mr. Broadbent), I move:

That this House reaffirms its approval of Bill C-40, passed earlier in this session, in which significant improvements were made respecting the widows of disabled veterans, but regrets that the six-and-a-half-year phasing-in period in that bill means that many thousands of widows will still have to wait from one up to six years before they receive the pensions to which, by law, they are now entitled; and this House therefore calls on the Acting Minister of Veterans Affairs to introduce legislation to cut that phasing-in period in half, or to make it even shorter, for the benefit of widows who deserve their pensions while they are still alive.

• (1415)

Madam Speaker: Order, please. It seems to me that the hon. member is reflecting on a vote which took place in the House. If I understood well the meaning of this motion, the hon. member agrees with the legislation but disagrees with one of the dispositions of that legislation. The vote has already occurred on that legislation and for that reason I feel that for the time being this motion is not acceptable.

An hon. Member: Three o'clock.

Mr. Knowles: I rise on a point of order, Madam Speaker. May I point out that there are many precedents—

Some hon. Members: Order, order.

Mr. Knowles: —of a bill being passed in a session and another bill being passed later in that same session amending the previous bill. That is what I am requesting.

Some hon. Members: Order, order.

Mr. Knowles: However, I am prepared to come back at it in another way on another day.

An hon. Member: Abide by the rules.

Madam Speaker: Order, please. I could not understand what the hon. member was saying but I think he said that he was in fact saying something different from the disposition of that legislation and that he will come back another day with a new motion. Is that what the hon. member said?

Mr. Knowles: Yes.

Madam Speaker: Then I shall expect another motion on another day.

Oral Questions

NATIVE RIGHTS

CALL FOR EXPLANATION OF FAILURE TO FORMULATE POLICY RESPECTING SETTLEMENT OF LAND CLAIMS—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Dave Nickerson (Western Arctic): Madam Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43. In view of the uncertainties caused by the lack of action by both the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and his special negotiator from the other place in renegotiating the COPE agreement, which is proving to be unacceptable on account of its having been signed in haste without consultation with the Yukon or Northwest Territories governments, affected municipalities or native groups having overlapping claims, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen):

That the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development be called upon by this House to make a statement on motions to explain his failure to formulate and announce a policy which would allow for the fair and just settlement of these outstanding land claims.

Madam Speaker: For presentation, this motion requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

PENITENTIARIES

HOSTAGE-TAKING INCIDENTS—DANGER POSED TO GUARDS—INQUIRY AS TO GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. Howard Crosby (Halifax West): Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Solicitor General respecting the series of prison disturbances across Canada that have culminated in the disaster at Dorchester penitentiary and the death of William Morrison. The Solicitor General is aware of the hostagetaking incidents and escapes at federal institutions and I am sure has received complaints from those concerned with security and the safety of the guards and staff. He knows a recent search at Dorchester yielded an arsenal of weapons. I want to know whether he has responded to these warnings. I want to know what action he has taken and proposes to take, but mostly, Madam Speaker, I want to know why he has rendered the guards and staff helpless in the face of obvious danger.

Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General): Madam Speaker, I dispute the notion that we have rendered the guards helpless in the face of obvious danger. I should like to inform the House that I have asked the correctional service to begin, and they have begun, to prepare a list of the names of those offenders across the system who are the most violent and dangerous and who represent the greatest threat to order in the institution.

An hon. Member: Are you going to run them as candidates?