

[English]

CANADA PENSION PLAN**SUGGESTED AMENDMENT TO REMOVE TWO PER CENT CEILING—CONSULTATION WITH PROVINCES**

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is supplementary to a portion of the first question asked today in this series by the Leader of the Opposition, and I direct it to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the necessity of getting all pensions to escalate by the full increase in the cost of living and in view of the fact that removing the 2 per cent ceiling with respect to the annual escalation under the Canada Pension Plan is the key to this whole program, will the minister revise his timetable with respect to taking this action and bring in a bill to amend the Canada Pension Plan, even if that is all it does, just to remove the 2 per cent ceiling on the annual escalation?

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, this is a question which, as the hon. member knows, requires the agreement of two thirds of the provinces and of the population. A meeting with my colleagues is scheduled for early fall, and I hope to be able to introduce legislation to this effect at the opening of the next session this fall, provided I have the agreement of the provinces.

[English]

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, in view of the urgency of this one aspect of the matter, will the minister make immediate contact with the provinces to see if it is not possible to act on it now without waiting for agreement on the other issues that are under discussion?

[Translation]

Mr. Lalonde: No, Mr. Speaker.

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[English]

HEALTH**REQUEST FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF SCHOOL OF TROPICAL MEDICINE—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North): Mr. Speaker, I would like to address a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare and ask him whether, in view of the fact that since 1967 there has been a galloping increase in tropical diseases resulting from the open visitors policy—in one tropical disease alone an increase from 19 to 848 cases in a five year period—and in view of the great shortage of doctors capable of treating tropical diseases, would the minister consider establishing a school of tropical medicine for medical graduates to further their training in this subject?

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for bringing this question to my attention. There is no definite plan right now regarding the establishment of such a school.

Oral Questions

However, discussions are taking place between my department, the Ontario government and the institute specializing in that matter in Toronto, which institute is affiliated with Toronto University. I hope that we will be able to come to conclusions in that connection within the next few months. Discussions are now in progress.

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[English]

HOUSING**STUDENT CO-OPERATIVE PROJECTS—REQUEST FOR TABLING TERMS OF REFERENCE OF INQUIRY—DATE ON WHICH MINISTER AWARE OF ALLEGATIONS**

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Trinity): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for Urban Affairs. Is he now prepared to table the terms of reference of his inquiry into alleged irregularities in respect of student co-operative housing?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I have already made it clear to the House that on February 22, I requested a complete report from CMHC as to the activities of Co-operative College Residences Limited and Tampold and Wells, in reference to the five student co-operative residences that were the subject of discussion.

Mr. Hellyer: Will the minister tell the House when he was first advised of the allegations of impropriety involving the student co-operative residence program, including the evidence given in examination for discovery in case No. 5275-71 Ontario, and by whom he was advised?

Mr. Basford: Mr. Speaker, as I made clear to the House with regard to that evidence and that affidavit, I had not heard of it until it was raised in the House. Yesterday the hon. member for Calgary North referred to an affidavit, and I take it that it is the same evidence to which the hon. member for Trinity refers. The hon. member for Calgary North has undertaken to supply me with a copy of that affidavit which he is obtaining from Toronto.

Mr. Hellyer: How can the minister explain the fact that he was unaware until it was raised in the House—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I am sure the hon. member will appreciate that a question asked in those terms is purely argumentative. The hon. member starts his question by asking, how can the minister explain a situation. Again I say I am sure that the hon. member will appreciate that a question asked in those terms is out of order.

Mr. Hellyer: Mr. Speaker, may I rephrase the question? Will the minister advise the House why, in his opinion, Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, and specifically the legal department of that corporation, did not advise him sooner of these serious allegations, or for that matter the president of CMHC, particularly when it has been public knowledge available to them for some two years?