

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

CANADA PENSION PLAN

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS ON FUNDING PROPOSALS

Mr. Paul E. McRae (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, under Standing Order 41(2) on behalf of the Minister of National Health and Welfare I should like to table documents from the Canada Pension Plan Advisory Committee on the funding proposals of the Canada Pension Plan for an increase in benefits.

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● (1520)

[Translation]

BUSINESS OF SUPPLY

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES (B) FOR YEAR ENDING MARCH 31, 1977

A message from His Excellency the Governor General transmitting Supplementary Estimates (B) with regard to the sums required for the public service of Canada for the financial year ending March 31, 1977 was presented by Hon. Robert K. Andras (President of the Treasury Board) and read by Mr. Speaker to the House.

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[English]

REMEMBRANCE DAY

TRIBUTES TO MEMBERS OF CANADIAN FORCES WHO SERVED IN WARTIME

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Acting Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, in my role as Acting Minister of Veterans Affairs I would like to remind hon. members that our annual service of remembrance will be held at eleven o'clock tomorrow morning at the National War Memorial. This service, organized by the Royal Canadian Legion, will be duplicated in cities, towns and villages across Canada. Everywhere in our great country citizens of all ages will stand in reverent silence remembering the more than 100,000 Canadians who made the supreme sacrifice to safeguard our way of life, the envy of the world. The human costs of Canada's wartime sacrifices can never be calculated but they will never be forgotten. Mr. Speaker, this parliament, this government, has made sure of this. We have not forgotten them. Our veterans are taken care of better than the veterans of any other country in the world.

In many other countries around the world tomorrow is also a day of mourning for the young men and women who died for their freedom. The Minister of Veterans Affairs (Mr. MacDonald) will be attending the service at the Arc de Triomphe in Paris, as the guest of his counterpart in the government of France. He will also attend the Commonwealth Memorial Service at Notre Dame Cathedral in the afternoon. Because of

Remembrance Day

his absence from Canada the Legion has invited his parliamentary secretary, the hon. member for Welland (Mr. Railton), to represent him at the national ceremony here in Ottawa.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I can only repeat the words which will be used tomorrow in every remembrance service: "We will remember them."

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, may I say that it is unfortunate that, on the one day of the year when we remember our war dead and duty, the ceremony in Canada could not take more precedence. I am privileged on behalf of my party to reply to the statement of the Acting Minister of Veterans Affairs on this day, a few hours before the touching Armistice ceremony which will take place at Canada's National Memorial here in Ottawa. We, on my side of the House, endorse fully the statement of the acting minister. We also pay tribute to the Canadian Legion and to all veterans' organizations across this great land who hold dear the true meaning of remembrance as we all remember our fallen comrades on Armistice Day. While we pay tribute to the fallen, we must remember our duty to those who remain.

It is probably difficult to imagine that in 1976, some 60 years after World War I, there still remain almost one million Canadian veterans who served their country with honour and distinction, whether on the battlefield of foreign countries or here at home, always ready to defend our proud nation.

Many of these veterans still need our help, because they returned maimed and incapacitated. Unfortunately, as the years go by, the recognition of the sacrifices of veterans diminishes; but it is all-important that we should recognize that as our veteran population grows older and passes on we must renew our efforts for increasing the needed care and attention we give to the old veteran who is left alone and to the widows who cared for their loved ones while they suffered because of war.

Finally, it is timely that this House should re-affirm Canada's commitment to its veterans. May I repeat the words of a former Prime Minister who said at Vimy Ridge in 1917:

The government and the country will consider it their first duty to see that a proper appreciation of your effort and of your courage is brought to the notice of the people at home—and it will always be our endeavour to so guide the attitude of public opinion that the country will support the government to prove to the returned men its just and due appreciation of the inestimable value of the services rendered to the country and empire and that no man will have just cause to reproach the government for having broken faith with the men who won and the men who died.

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, my colleagues and I on behalf of the New Democratic Party across Canada join with all members of the House in recognizing tomorrow as Remembrance Day. We appreciate the words spoken by the Acting Minister of Veterans Affairs (Mr. Whelan) and by the hon. member for Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe (Mr. Marshall). We join with them in reaffirming our obligation to those who paid the supreme sacrifice for this country. We add that we believe it is part of our obligation to try to build the kind of world for which they gave their lives.