

*Inquiries of the Ministry***VETERANS AFFAIRS****LACK OF PROVISION IN ESTIMATES FOR DISABILITY PENSION AND ALLOWANCE INCREASES**

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct my question to the President of the Treasury Board. On February 17, the day on which he tabled the 1971-72 estimates, he took notice of my question regarding the means by which increases in veterans disability pensions and veterans allowances are to be put into effect. Can he now say whether this will be by legislation, by estimates, by \$1 items, or how this will be done?

Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, the provision for the variety of measures to which the hon. gentleman has referred arises by legislation. This is achieved in some instances through the appropriation process and in others through statutes which provide for the payments being made without the necessity of any appropriation bill. It is partly the one and partly the other.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, can the minister not tell us in what precise way those two things are being dealt with? It makes all the difference in the world whether we bring in measures to deal with them or whether they are just there as estimates that do not come before the House.

Mr. Drury: Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. gentleman will have an opportunity in the standing committee, when the estimates of the Minister of Veterans Affairs come before it, to deal with, as he puts it, or to inquire into these particular aspects.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): But we shall not have that opportunity on the floor of the House.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS**INQUIRY AS TO REFORM OF RULES**

Mr. Murray McBride (Lanark-Renfrew-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Acting House Leader. In view of the action by the hon. member for Joliette, who withdrew from the agricultural committee in disgust yesterday because of the filibuster and unmerited obstruction of the opposition—

Some hon. Members: Order!

Mr. McBride: —does the government plan to recommend a reform of the rules of the House to prevent such obstruction?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member is asking a question about proceedings in a committee. I think he knows very well, and I think that most hon. members know, that such questions are not in order.

[Mr. Davis.]

THE CENSUS**INQUIRY AS TO ORGANIZATION, APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF COMMISSIONER**

Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Since this is census year, and since I believe he is in charge of the taking of the census, can he inform the House when he expects to announce the composition of the census organization and the appointment of a chief census commissioner?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I think it is generally known that there will be a census in Canada in 1971. If more information is needed, I will obtain it and satisfy my hon. friend.

Mr. Thompson: Mr. Speaker, am I to gather that there is no intention of taking a census this year?

Mr. Pepin: Mr. Speaker, I thought it was generally known in Canada that there would be a census in 1971. If there are further announcements to make, we shall make them. If my hon. friend wants more information, as usual I will do my best to please him.

Mr. Harkness: The census must be taken, according to the law.

Mr. Thompson: Mr. Speaker, a great many Canadians are concerned about this because they look forward to supplementing their incomes by participating in the taking of the census. Many questions in this regard have been coming to me and I think that some announcement should be forthcoming.

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INCOME TAX**INQUIRY AS TO INTRODUCTION OF AMENDING LEGISLATION**

Mr. John Burton (Regina East): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Acting Prime Minister in the absence of the Prime Minister who has just left the House. In view of some of the concerns that have been expressed about the business of the House, and since the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance has indicated that the income tax legislation to be submitted this spring will be considerably different from the white paper, could the Acting Prime Minister, whoever he now is, inform the House when this legislation will be brought before the House and if every step will be taken to ensure that it is introduced as soon as possible?

Hon. C. M. Drury (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I think the Minister of Finance has made it quite clear that the legislation will be brought forward as soon as practicable and, further, that the House will have ample opportunity to consider it.