

● (1500)

WAR VETERANS ALLOWANCE ACT

REQUEST THAT REVIEW BE EXPEDITED

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Will the Minister of Veterans Affairs also do his best to expedite the review of the War Veterans Allowance Act, which he announced a short time ago.

Hon. Daniel J. MacDonald (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, with respect to the last question, the process has already begun. We had our first meeting with the representatives of the veterans' organizations. The hon. member must realize that this has taken a considerable time, but it is already in process.

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VETERANS AFFAIRS

HOUSING REPAIR PROGRAM—REASON FOR DELAY IN IMPLEMENTATION

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humbert-St. George's-St. Barbe): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps the minister will recall the request the Newfoundland branch of the Canadian Legion made to him and the then minister of state for urban affairs for funding for a program for veterans and their widows to cover emergency repairs to houses. This has been in process for three years. The minister and the present Minister of National Defence made a commitment to that provincial command of the Canadian Legion. Could the minister explain to this House and veterans of this country the reasons for the inexcusable delay in providing the funding recommended by the excellent survey?

Hon. Daniel J. MacDonald (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, with reference to the survey, as the hon. member knows I and my colleague the Minister of State for Urban Affairs looked into the matter. I think the hon. member realizes that this comes under the Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program, and it is up to the province to designate certain areas where the program can be implemented and applied. The matter is not exactly under federal jurisdiction but must be worked out with the province. I understand that some delay has been occasioned in this regard, and the program has probably not been assigned to the various areas of the province referred to.

PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL REHABILITATION PROGRAM—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Since the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources has announced his insulation program, and since the Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program has been greatly beneficial, its restrictions being lack of funding, would the minister now consider suggestions made

Business of the House

to him, namely, that he should provide, under the veterans housing program, a national residential rehabilitation program for veterans on fixed incomes who cannot afford to insulate their homes or bring them up to a state of reasonable repair?

Hon. Daniel J. MacDonald (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, housing, today, comes pretty well under the Minister of State for Urban Affairs who is responsible for all Canada, and anything we do in relation to housing for veterans would therefore be done under the authority of the minister. We shall have to assess whatever assistance my department is able to give and I shall be glad to see what we can do.

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order to ask the government House leader his plans for government business this week.

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, the plan for the week is easy to state. I should like to dispose of the amendments to the criminal law which will be before the House today, and complete third reading of the unemployment insurance bill and the Air Canada bill. Some bills are at various stages, either in committee or on third reading. I regard them as not possible of attainment this week, so to speak. I wish to place the bills previously mentioned before the House this week, and I would also contemplate calling the bill in the name of the President of the Treasury Board at some point this week.

Mr. Paproski: We didn't hear the last part.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, is it clear that the first two bills we shall deal with are C-51 and C-27?

Mr. MacEachen: I beg your pardon, Mr. Speaker; I did not hear the hon. member's question.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, the minister announced a number of items, but did not make clear the order in which they will be considered. Will the first two bills be C-51 and C-27?

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, the first is the amendments to the criminal law, which will be before the House today and tomorrow. If it is not completed before the end of the day tomorrow, I shall advise what the next item of business will be.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. When I asked the Prime Minister a question about the political contribution made by Canadair, he said he was reminded by his colleague the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce that Canadair at the time was not a Crown corporation. The fact is the Canadian government took over Canadair on January 5, 1976, and the reports filed by the Chief Electoral Officer show that the contribution to the Liberal party was made in the last five months of 1976. I