

Hon. Roy MacLaren (Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member will know from the recent Budget that provision has been made to hear the opinions of different sectors of the economy, and particularly the agricultural sector, regarding the application of Section 31 of the Income Tax Act. We shall conduct those consultations over the months ahead. I should welcome the views of the Hon. Member as much as I should welcome those of all Canadians who have an interest in this subject.

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VETERANS AFFAIRS

WAR VETERANS ALLOWANCE RECIPIENTS

Hon. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Veterans Affairs. Under the current provisions for war veterans allowance, single veterans over 65 years of age receive a war veterans allowance top-up of approximately \$54 per month over and above their combined income from the OAS and GIS. Will the Minister assure the House that the budget announcement of an increase of \$50 per month for single GIS recipients will be reflected in a \$50 per month increase for war veterans allowance recipients? Will the Minister also increase the war veterans allowance top-up for married veterans to the same level as that for single veterans?

Hon. W. Bennett Campbell (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I can assure the Hon. Member that the provisions which were included in the Budget to provide for a \$25 increase in the GIS as of July 1, and a further \$25 increase as of December 1, will be passed through to all veterans simply by increasing the ceiling. Thus, the full benefits of the budgetary provision which is extended to all Canadians will be applied to veterans as well.

PERMISSIBLE INTEREST INCOME LEVEL

Hon. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria): Mr. Speaker, the Minister said the provision would be applied to all veterans. Does he include those veterans who are not drawing a war veterans allowance and who are under the age of 65? Perhaps he could enlighten us by answering that question.

Veterans who are receiving war veterans allowance are only allowed \$100 in the way of interest income per year before they start losing an equivalent amount from their war veterans allowance. In view of the current financial situation, would the Minister now make a commitment to raise this meagre amount of \$100 to \$1,000?

Hon. W. Bennett Campbell (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, perhaps I could clarify the matter. The \$50 increase which is being provided to those who are over 65 years of age under the GIS will automatically be passed through to the recipients of war veterans allowance by increasing the ceiling by a similar amount. Of course, increasing that

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ceiling for single people who are over 65 years of age will also affect those who are under 65 years of age.

With respect to increasing the interest deduction, as I have indicated to the Hon. Member, I will be proposing a number of legislative amendments to the War Veterans Allowance Act as a follow-up to the study which was conducted over the past number of months, and a provision to increase the interest earnings deduction will be one of those proposals.

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AMATEUR SPORT

CONDITION OF SPORT INFRASTRUCTURES

Mr. Raymond Dupont (Chambly): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for Fitness and Amateur Sport.

We are all aware of the presence in the House today of a great Canadian whose extraordinary achievements have placed Canada and speed skating in the limelight of the whole world. To prepare himself for such performances, he has had to leave his own country to train and compete abroad. Could the Minister brief us on the setting up of permanent infrastructures for our athletes in Canada?

Hon. Jacques Olivier (Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport)): On this Olympian day of rejoicing, Mr. Speaker, in the presence of the best Canadian athletes who represented us in Sarajevo, I should like to remind the House that the Government of Canada announced last week that our athletes would no longer have to leave Canada to train in foreign countries. Indeed, we have managed to sign an agreement with the University of Calgary for the construction with the cooperation of that university of an indoor speed skating oval on the campus at a cost of some \$35 million, so that our athletes may train here in Canada.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Olivier: Moreover, we are proud of Gaétan Boucher's and Brian Orser's outstanding achievements which have helped amateur sports as well as all Canadian athletes. I must say that Sport Canada, the government which I represent and all Canadians are delighted for this opportunity to help our athletes. Needless to say we will make sure that similar facilities are available in Eastern Canada, so that Canadians may win many more gold medals in the future.