

VETERANS AFFAIRS

REVIEW OF WAR VETERANS ALLOWANCE ACT

Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg-Assiniboine): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Veterans Affairs. In January, 1983, the Royal Canadian Legion reported the disappointing response it received from the Minister with regard to changes it felt necessary should be made to the War Veterans Allowance Act. As it is apparent that this Act will not be open for review for approximately two years, what plan of immediate action does the Minister have in mind to deal with the many inadequacies in the legislation?

• (1500)

Hon. W. Bennett Campbell (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Madam Speaker, as the Hon. Member is aware, the War Veterans Allowance Act is presently under review. I am not sure of the origin of the indication that it will be two years before the Act will be opened. In fact we anticipate that the first report will be received by mid-summer. I anticipate legislative proposals will be ready for consideration either in the Fall or, at the latest, early next Spring.

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

WEEKLY STATEMENT

Mr. Lewis: Madam Speaker, this being Thursday, I would like to ask the Parliamentary Secretary to the Government House Leader to give us some idea of the business for next week, right through until next Friday if possible.

Mr. Smith: Madam Speaker, tomorrow we will be resuming debate on Bill C-155. On Monday we will again resume debate on Bill C-155. On Tuesday we will go to Bill C-151, the borrowing authority. Wednesday will be Private Members' day. Thursday will be confirmed early next week.

Mr. Deans: Madam Speaker, can the Parliamentary Secretary confirm that the Government has given up on the sports pool legislation and on Canagrex?

Mr. Smith: No, Madam Speaker, we have not given up either of those Bills. I am sure they will be passed before too long.

Mr. Deans: Madam Speaker, can the Parliamentary Secretary inform the House approximately when the Government House Leader would be prepared to call either or both of those pieces of legislation? At the same time, will he be kind enough to investigate on behalf of the house the reasons Bill C-653 has been so delayed in committee?

Mr. Smith: Madam Speaker, I will be happy to look into the latter matter. As to the progress of legislation, it depends largely on the amount of co-operation we get from the other side of the House. With a little more co-operation these Bills will all be moving along.

Petitions

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Madam Speaker, can the Parliamentary Secretary tell us which matters of Private Members' Business will be considered on Wednesday next?

Mr. Smith: Madam Speaker, I cannot advise the Hon. Member of that, but as soon as that information is available it will be conveyed to him.

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Madam Speaker, will he ensure that as soon as it is known what Private Members' Business will be considered next Wednesday, Members will be notified in their offices, notification will be placed in the lobbies and also in the elevators?

Mr. Smith: Madam Speaker, it is not up to us to post that information in the Opposition lobby. It is conveyed to the Opposition Whips and it is up to them to post it in the Opposition lobby.

Mr. Nielsen: It is up to the Table.

Mr. Smith: We always notify Members opposite as soon as that information is available.

Mr. Skelly: Madam Speaker, I wish to ask the Parliamentary Secretary a question pertaining to the responsibilities of the Parliamentary Secretary concerning the Chief Electoral Officer. Is it the intention of the House Leader to place before the House some legislation that would allow fishermen and other transients on the coast of British Columbia who happen to be away from their home poll at the time of an election to have the opportunity to absentee vote? This question has been raised numerous times. It is my understanding that that material will not be laid before the House in the next session. Will the Parliamentary Secretary inquire into this matter and let us know whether this anomaly in the Elections Act that disenfranchises thousands of people on the coast of British Columbia will be removed in time for the next election?

Mr. Smith: Madam Speaker, amendments to the Elections Act are normally dealt with in the second session of each Parliament.

Mr. Nielsen: Are we going to have one?

Mr. Smith: I can assure the Hon. Member that his representations will be taken into consideration.

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PETITIONS

MR. TAYLOR—REQUEST FOR PASSAGE OF BILL C-671

Mr. Gordon Taylor (Bow River): Madam Speaker, I have great pleasure in presenting petitions from another 500 Canadians, now totalling over 3,900, asking that the Government move rapidly to bring Bill C-671, an Act respecting the execution of Clifford Robert Olson, to Parliament and that Parliament pass this Bill. Some of these petitioners do not believe in the reinstatement of capital punishment, but all