

[English]

FISHERIES

SEALS—REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION OF ARTEK FILM BY STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I should like to speak to the point of order raised by the hon. member for Parry Sound-Muskoka.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Will the hon. member resume his seat? The Chair has already indicated that the point of order referred to was not one to be raised at the present time. If the hon. member has another point of order to raise, the Chair will hear him, of course.

Mr. McGrath: If I cannot speak to the point of order, would Your Honour permit me to ask a supplementary question?

Mr. Speaker: We have gone beyond the time allotted to oral questions but if hon. members agree unanimously, the hon. member may proceed.

An hon. Member: Go on.

Mr. Speaker: The suggestion has been made that it being St. Patrick's Day the hon. member should be allowed to ask the supplementary.

Mr. McGrath: I thank you, Mr. Speaker, and all hon. members for showing such charity to this poor, humble Irishman. My supplementary question is directed to the leader of the house. As he is permitted to do under Standing Order 65, would he agree to refer to the Standing Committee on Broadcasting, Films and Assistance to the Arts, the subject matter of my question to the Secretary of State regarding the film made by Artek Films Limited, on the seal hunt in the St. Lawrence?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council): I understand that the Secretary of State in his answer drew attention to the fact that the estimates are now before all the standing committees and that it would be entirely within the power of the standing committee mentioned to make arrangements in its timetable to call before it the people necessary to a discussion of this question. I understood my hon. friend's reply to be within that context. It would of course be a different situation if this were a period of the year when the estimates were not before the standing committee.

29180—424½

Suggested Pension Payment Corrections

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

BUSINESS OF SUPPLY

ALLOTTED DAY, S.O. 58 (4) (a)—SUGGESTIONS TO CORRECT ALLEGED ANOMALIES IN PAYMENT OF PENSIONS

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I move:

That, in the opinion of this house, the government should give immediate consideration to the introduction of legislation to improve the position of our senior citizens, including those on old age security, the war veterans allowance and various other government pensions and allowances, by providing *inter alia* a substantial increase in the old age pension, the removal of the income test from the supplement thereto, income tax adjustments to correct existing anomalies, and the inclusion of an escalator clause to keep pensions in line with wage and salary increases, all of these proposals being steps toward the establishing of a genuine guaranteed annual income.

As will be clear from this motion, Mr. Speaker, we are asking the house today to give serious consideration to the needs, the plight and the rights of our senior citizens. We have in mind all our people who are covered by this broad term "senior citizens", but we are thinking particularly of those in receipt of old age security pensions, war veterans allowances, and various other pensions and allowances.

If time permits, various members of our party will speak with respect to the different groups of people referred to in the motion. We hope the house will welcome this day as providing an opportunity to give special consideration to the problems faced by the older people in our community.

May I say at the outset that this is not just another appeal for a few more dollars. More dollars are certainly needed by our senior citizens—and not just a few more. But the appeal today is for a new approach to the whole question of retirement pensions, and in a moment or two I shall indicate what we regard as the three main points which are essential to such a new approach. Before I do that may I deal immediately with a couple of the answers that may be forthcoming from the government side unless, of course, the government decides that this is a good motion and is prepared to support it.

• (3:00 p.m.)

Having listened to many debates on this subject in this house, I suspect that one of the answers will be that it is more important to do something about inflation, that it is more