

Adjournment Motion

duty as security officers, as would the Solicitor General, the minister responsible for the RCMP, if they did not proceed in this fashion.

The Solicitor General has stated publicly that the RCMP are aware of the existence of many individuals and groups who are sympathizers on both sides of the Palestinian conflict. As I have stated, the RCMP are always on guard against terrorism of any kind, and in this respect become aware of groups and individuals who are sympathizers to one side or the other. This is not limited to this conflict alone.

Once again I think it is most unfair and most regrettable if this story has cast a shadow of subversion, as has been described by the hon. member, on the many thousands of decent, law abiding Canadians of Arab descent.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

VETERANS AFFAIRS—PROJECTS AND ALLOWANCES

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, I think I may be setting a precedent tonight because I am bringing to the attention of the Minister of Veterans Affairs (Mr. MacDonald), through his very capable parliamentary secretary, a double barrelled question with regard to two matters of concern. One is the veterans housing program, and the second is a problem with regard to the disparity which exists between the war veterans, civilian war allowances and the disability pensions as they exist at present.

I wish I had time to bring forward a third question which relates to an editorial in the *Globe and Mail*. Some young whippersnapper had occasion to say that if the government was looking for restraint there are many areas under the Department of Veterans Affairs which could be curtailed.

Some hon. Members: Shame!

Mr. Marshall: At some time in the future I would certainly like to be able to deal with that young whippersnapper and teach him what Canada is all about.

However, I wish to refer to the fact that as a result of the discontinuance of the Veterans' Land Act the government introduced two programs under veterans housing legislation, one as it applies to non profit housing, and one as it applies to some additions under the Assisted Home Ownership Program. As I have said many times before in the House, one of the things which is missing which I cannot understand is the availability of rehabilitation assistance for all Canadians. Whether veterans or not, all Canadians should be able to apply for loans and grants to rehabilitate their homes which are deteriorating because under fixed incomes they cannot keep up with the maintenance of those homes.

● (2210)

I hope that the parliamentary secretary will remind the minister, although I am sure he is aware of it, that somewhere along the line we have to influence the Minister of State for Urban Affairs (Mr. Danson). We must convince him that it is a simple matter to introduce a rehabilitation

[Mr. Poulin.]

program which would give veterans the chance to bring their homes up to a reasonable standard.

I see the Minister of Finance (Mr. Macdonald) is in the House tonight. I am sure he will recognize that when he was minister of energy, mines and resources we could have saved millions of dollars worth of fuel through good insulation for those homes throughout the country that had deteriorated. It would also have been a conservation measure.

I commend the government for bringing in improvements to the War Veterans Allowance Act and the Civilian War Pensions and Allowances Act which mean that those veterans who are burned out and pre-aged have surpassed the disability pensions of those who were wounded and are receiving pensions under that criteria.

For example, a disability pensioner who is married and getting 75 per cent pension who has no other income gets \$509.43, whereas his counterpart under the War Veterans Allowance Act gets \$548.05. Besides that, the war veterans allowance recipient can get drugs for any disability, while the disability pensioner can only get drugs for the particular wound from which he suffers. In addition, the income of the WVA recipient is indexed quarterly while the income of the disability pensioner is indexed annually.

I have no quarrel with the Minister of Veterans Affairs or the government, but this points out that as a result of the amendment to the War Veterans Allowance Act, for these men who have surpassed disability pension there has to be some way of resolving both pensions. The disability pensioner who has no other income has fallen behind and must be brought up, particularly today when inflation is hurting every fixed income pensioner in the country.

I appeal to the minister to have the Canadian Pension Commission and the War Veterans Allowance Board look into this matter. A disability pensioner who is receiving a pension from 5 per cent to 75 per cent and has no other income can qualify for a higher rate, but because he does not know this he is losing hundreds of dollars per year. I think the department and the minister should bring this fact to the attention of all disability pensioners in that category so that they may take advantage of what is available to them.

Mr. S. Victor Raiton (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I take great pleasure in replying on behalf of the Minister of Veterans Affairs (Mr. MacDonald). First may I deal with the question concerning the WVA group. I shall deal with disability pensioners and war veterans allowances. Actually, the hon. member raised two questions. I shall try to answer both.

I think the hon. member knows that the minister has held discussions with the officials of the commission, and a stuffer will be placed in the envelope with the monthly pension cheque in the very near future. This stuffer will advise that the quarterly adjustment affecting income ceilings for war veterans allowance may make possible increased WVA payments if application therefor is made. I think that is clear.

Canadian pension commission officials feel that all pensioners should be advised of these changes so that they can contact the Department of Veterans Affairs to determine if they are in receipt of maximum benefits. The minister