

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): I will put a direct question to the minister. Will the minister examine this latest agreement for a breach of contract?

[Translation]

Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, the matter is being looked into.

[English]

EXPO '67

REQUEST FOR SEVERE PENALTIES FOR THEFTS FROM PAVILIONS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Harold E. Winch (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, I desire to direct a question to the Minister of Justice which may not be of the importance of some previous questions but to me it is most important. As a brief introduction to my question may I say that Expo '67 has been a brilliant success and has brought honour and prestige to Canada. The image must not be tarnished in its closing days by thefts from pavilions of the many countries which have made Expo such a success. Will the Minister of Justice make it known in this House of Commons that whilst the Criminal Code is federal and the administration of justice is provincial, he will call for the fullest investigation of all thefts and for the severest penalties against those who by their irresponsible and illegal actions would bring the name of Expo and Canada into ill repute?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

INDUSTRY

REQUEST FOR POLICY STATEMENT ON STEEL PRODUCTION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. E. Nasserden (Rosthern): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Prime Minister. Can we have a statement from the government outlining its attitude in regard to an over-all policy on steel production, something which is so vital to the future of Canada?

Mr. Speaker: Order. It seems to me the hon. member is asking for a type of statement that should be made on motions, and for that reason I do not think the question is in order.

Inquiries of the Ministry

OLD AGE SECURITY

REQUEST FOR RESTORATION OF PURCHASING POWER OF PENSIONS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. L. Chatterton (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. The news release he tabled a few minutes ago indicates that the monthly old age security pension will be increased by the large sum of \$1.50 next year, and that the supplementary pension will be increased by 60 cents. In view of the large rise in the consumer price index is the government giving consideration to a formula which will restore the purchasing power of those old age pensioners?

Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker it is evident from the statement that under the present law we have a method for updating pensions through effective increases as a result of changes in the cost of living. We have made an adjustment in accordance with the maximum allowable under the law. As the hon. member must realize, these will be annual adjustments which will have significance in respect of these changes.

Hon. Michael Starr (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I have a related supplementary question for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. I should like to ask him whether in this current session of parliament the government is going to correct the gross injustice which occurs to old age pensioners' supplement payments in respect of changes in their income status during a calendar year.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Veterans Affairs. Now that it is official there is to be a \$1.50 increase in the old age security pension, will the minister take the necessary steps to make sure that war veterans allowance recipients who also receive the old age security pension will not lose the \$1.50 from their war veterans allowance?

Hon. Roger Teillet (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, we will of course give consideration to this matter and make an announcement at the appropriate time.