

Questions

further measures to improve the grain handling and transportation system. Specific measures considered feasible will be outlined from time to time.

COMBINING OF SOCIAL WELFARE TAXES

Question No. 386—**Mr. Robinson:**

Will the federal government consider the advisability of combining the Old Age Security Tax, Canada Pension Plan Tax, Guaranteed Income Supplement Tax in order to provide one comprehensive payment for the aged, widowed and orphaned?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): The purpose of the Old Age Security program is to provide for Canada's senior citizens a universal flat rate pension as a base on which they can build for their retirement years. This plan is financed by a special tax on personal income, corporation income and sales. These taxes are not identified with the individuals who pay them and eligibility for the pension is not based on their payment.

The Canada Pension Plan is complementary to the Old Age Security program and is intended to provide Canadians with additional financial security through the payment of retirement, disability and survivors benefits. This is a contributory plan under which the amount of the graduated benefits paid is related to the earnings of employees and self-employed persons.

When the Canada Pension Plan was introduced it was realized that there would be some persons who would not qualify for full benefits during the ten-year period of transition while there would be others who would not have any entitlement due to non-employment. The Guaranteed Income Supplement program was brought into being as a means of augmenting the Old Age Security pension for this group of persons. Payments are made from the Old Age Security Fund.

Since these programs are based on two different principles, namely graduated benefits and a flat rate benefit, and since the Canada Pension Plan is not operative in Quebec, which has a comparable provincial plan, it would be extremely difficult to combine them as suggested. If in the future a decision is made to effect any changes, they will be announced at the appropriate time.

PAYMENTS TO NORTHLAND NAVIGATION COMPANY

Question No. 411—**Mr. Howard (Skeena):**

For each fiscal year since and including 1964-65, how much money has been paid to Northland Navigation Company for (a) providing service to B.C. Coastal communities (b) carrying of mail (c) other purposes?

Mr. Yves Forest (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council):

	The Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development	The Canadian Transport Commission
(a) 1964-65.....	\$15,000	\$387,448
1965-66.....	18,000	388,000
1966-67.....	19,000	315,914
1967-68.....	20,000	398,666
1968-69.....	25,000	523,800
		The Post Office Department
(b) 1964-65.....	\$ 8,000	\$ 87,433
1965-66.....	8,000	66,785
1966-67.....	8,000	69,850
1967-68.....	10,000	65,463
1968-69.....	10,000	62,525
		The Department of Fisheries and Forestry
(c) 1964-65.....	\$ 1,000	\$ 3,649
1965-66.....	1,500	5,647
1966-67.....	1,500	3,481
1967-68.....	2,500	3,555
1968-69.....	2,500	2,401