

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Speaker: It seems to me this question was asked earlier, but possibly it was not answered and the minister might wish to reply.

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): I have read some of the reports to which I believe the leader of the New Democratic Party has referred. After meeting many of the provincial welfare ministers a few weeks ago, I can say that this is not a prevalent practice throughout Canada, though it may be happening here and there. To the degree that it is, I shall be pleased to talk the matter over with the welfare ministers whom I shall be meeting shortly.

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HEALTH**INCLUSION OF PARAMEDICAL SERVICES UNDER MEDICARE**

Mr. Doug Rowland (Selkirk): My question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. May I ask whether at his conference last week the question of including certain paramedical services in the national medicare plan was discussed and, if so, whether any progress was made toward a consensus on this matter?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Yes, Mr. Speaker, it was discussed, and it was decided we should examine this question of the extension of coverage together with the financial implications of the present sharing arrangements and of health insurance programs generally.

Mr. Rowland: Is the minister in a position to tell us when we might expect a more specific announcement?

Mr. Munro: Well, we agreed to look into this whole matter with the provinces over the course of the next few months, and until we are in a position to reach a more definite conclusion I would have nothing more helpful to advise the House.

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IMMIGRATION**IMPROVEMENT OF APPEAL BOARD STRUCTURE TO DEAL WITH BACKLOG OF CASES**

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): I wish to direct a question to the Acting Minister of Manpower and Immigration. Is the government taking any steps to improve the Immigration Appeal Board structure and procedure having regard to the 14-month backlog of appeals waiting to be heard?

Mr. Speaker: I am sure this question was asked some days ago. It may be, however, that there have been developments since then which would make it more relevant today, so in these terms and to this extent the question would be in order.

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): I will take this question as notice and I will refer it to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration.

[Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands).]

[English]

NATIONAL LIBRARY**INQUIRY AS TO APPOINTMENT OF ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): I have a question for the Secretary of State, Mr. Speaker. Can the Secretary of State inform the House when he will be appointing the national advisory council which was provided for under the terms of the National Library Act approved by Parliament over a year ago?

[Translation]

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I will take the hon. member's question as notice and I will look into it to see where we stand.

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CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION**ESCALATION OF PENSIONS OF RETIRED EMPLOYEES**

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I have another question for the Secretary of State.

Can the minister answer now my question of November 26 regarding the retired employees of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): Yes, Mr. Speaker. The CBC intends to give its retired employees the same benefits as those granted to Public Service employees but the implementation of this policy is subject to an agreement with the representatives of the employees and to considerations proper to the administration of a Crown Corporation pension fund.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): I extend my thanks to the minister, Mr. Speaker.

[English]

GOVERNMENT ORDERS**REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVES ACT****PROVISION OF SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVE, LOAN GUARANTEE, ETC.**

The House resumed from Friday, December 11, consideration of the motion of Mr. Marchand (Langelier) that Bill C-205, to amend the Regional Development Incentives Act, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Regional Development.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Peace River on a point of order.

Mr. Baldwin: A brief point of order, Your Honour more for the sake of clarification than for obtaining some order from the House. *Votes and Proceedings* of Friday, December 11, includes an order of the day under the notices of committee meetings which indicates that this bill, Bill C-205, is to be considered by the Standing Committee at 3.30 this afternoon. While I understand there was some discussion on this question, and it was