

Inquiries of the Ministry

[Text]

Mr. Benson: I would be glad to look into the matter.

SPORTS**REQUEST FOR INCREASED FEDERAL ASSISTANCE**

On the orders of the day:

[Translation]

Mr. Raymond Langlois (Mégantic): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Secretary of State. My question is related to a national ski competition for the Canadian championship that took place in my constituency last Sunday.

By the way, I wish to extend my congratulations to Miss Nancy Greene of Vancouver and to Mr. Pommerleau of Thetford Mines, his home town, who won the national ski championship of Canada.

They invited me to ask the government to extend a more substantial assistance to amateur sports across the country so that they will not be compelled to organize bazaars and make requests of all sorts in order to be able to compete abroad.

Hon. Maurice Lamontagne (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I believe this question should be directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

Mr. Langlois: Mr. Speaker, I shall ask her this question tomorrow.

[Text]

LABOUR RELATIONS**BRITISH COLUMBIA—REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FISHERY PROBLEMS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni): I have a question for the Minister of Fisheries which arises out of the tabling in the house on February 22 of the report of the federal-provincial committee on wage and price disputes in the British Columbia fishing industry. I should like to ask the minister whether the federal government and the provincial government, either individually or jointly, have initiated any consideration as to which of these recommendations, if any, should be implemented. If so, what steps have been taken by the federal government, either separately or jointly with the government of the province of British Columbia?

Hon. H. J. Robichaud (Minister of Fisheries): The report referred to matters which are quite complicated and which deserve careful

[Mr. Perron.]

study by both the federal government and the government of British Columbia before any action is taken. This matter is now receiving such study by the Department of Fisheries, and as soon as such study is completed we shall consult with the provincial government in order to determine what action will be taken.

PENSIONS**PROVISION FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF CONTRIBUTORY PROGRAM**

The house resumed from Friday, February 26, consideration in committee of Bill No. C-136, to establish a comprehensive program of old age pensions and supplementary benefits in Canada payable to and in respect of contributors—Miss LaMarsh—Mr. Lamoureux in the chair.

The Chairman: Order. When the committee rose on Friday last clause 54 of the bill was being considered. Clauses 1, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 15, 26, 43, 44, 46, 48 and 49 were allowed to stand.

Clauses 54 and 55 agreed to.

On clause 56—*Amount of widow's pension.*

The Chairman: Shall clause 56 carry?

Mr. Knowles: Mr. Chairman, should you not call clause 56 as amended in the French version? I draw your attention to the fact that there is an amendment to the French text set out in appendix D to the report.

The Chairman: Clause 56 is being called as amended.

Mr. Chatterton: Clause 56 provides for a pension to a widow, where she has no dependants, under the age of 65. The pension is 37½ per cent of the pension her husband would have received, plus a flat amount of \$25. This is set out in 56(3). It is stated that in the case of a widow who has reached 65 the pension payable to her, the basic monthly amount, is 60 per cent of the total of the monthly amount of the retirement pension payable to such widow and the amount of the contributor's retirement pension calculated as provided in subclause (3). I take it that at the age of 65 the 37½ per cent jumps to 60 per cent but that the flat rate portion falls away. The old age security benefits announced by the Prime Minister will not become available to those aged 65 and over until 1970; the first widow's pension becomes available in 1968, after two years as contributors. So those widows who turn