

*Inquiries of the Ministry***VETERANS AFFAIRS****SHAUGHNESSY HOSPITAL, VANCOUVER—
SALARIES OF STAFF**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Veterans Affairs. It has reference to question No. 2,612, which was answered in the house. The answer to part 13 of that question indicates that present rates of pay for ward nurses, nursing assistants and orderlies are lower at Shaughnessy hospital than in other hospitals in Vancouver. I should like to ask the minister what steps he has taken to rectify this situation in order to bring the salaries for these groups of persons at Shaughnessy hospital into line with other hospitals in the Vancouver area.

Hon. Roger Teillet (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member knows, the difficulty in this situation is that our rates of pay are based on national rather than regional considerations. While these rates of pay in Vancouver are perhaps lower than the rates prevailing in that area, we find we are higher in other areas. It would therefore be a matter of adopting a regional policy rather than a national policy. I think the hon. member would agree it is an extremely difficult problem and one, I can assure him, that we are facing and thinking about continually. What the answer is to the problem at the moment I could not say.

Mr. Douglas: May I ask a supplementary question. I agree with the minister that it is a difficult question, but would he not agree that unless some adjustment can be made to meet competitive rates it is not going to be possible to keep good staff, or it means asking the staff to make sacrifices which we have no right to ask them to make?

Mr. Teillet: Of course that is the essential problem with which we are wrestling in the department. It is a difficult one. I do not want this to be taken as a suggestion of policy, but it is one of the things for which we may have to find some answer because of the difficulties in recruiting which have been mentioned.

Mr. Harold E. Winch (Vancouver East): May I ask a question of the minister. In view of the fact that in a good many departments in Vancouver the prevailing rate system is in effect, why should the minister's department insist on a national prevailing average rate? Other federal employees receive the

[Mr. MacEachen.]

prevailing rate in Vancouver. Here you have a differentiation in rates of between \$80 and \$100 per month for orderlies employed in the Shaughnessy hospital and those employed in the Vancouver General, St. Joseph's or St. Paul's hospitals. How can you have one policy while other departments have another?

Mr. Teillet: Subject to correction, my understanding of the situation is that while there is a differentiation, I believe the prevailing rates employees are not considered to be full time civil servants, and that would be the reason for the distinction. I would have to check into that and make sure.

PUBLIC SERVICE**PROVISION OF MINIMUM STANDARDS ESTABLISHED UNDER LABOUR CODE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Labour. Can the minister say when he will be introducing the legislation which he promised us to provide for employees of the federal government the same minimum standards that were established in the Canada Labour (Standards) Code which was passed a week ago?

Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of Labour): I am not sure that legislation will be required at this point, but I think it is a matter that will have to be dealt with very soon. I hope that after a consultation with the president of the council we can make a statement.

Mr. Knowles: May I ask a supplementary question. Is it the government's intention that the same effective date, namely July 1 of this year, will apply to all these people?

Mr. MacEachen: That is the intention, Mr. Speaker.

PENSIONS**PROVISION FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF
CONTRIBUTORY PROGRAM**

The house resumed from Thursday, February 25, 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 last evening clause 22 of the bill was being discussed and clauses 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 15 had been allowed to stand.