

posed in this bill is provision to escalate, according to the cost of living formula, all the allowances that are paid under any and all of the statutes respecting veterans.

Those were two of the points that I noted down. The third was one that I spoke about this morning when we were debating Bill C-207, the bill to amend the Old Age Security Act, namely, the question of the ceiling on the permissible income that applies to recipients of the war veterans allowance. As I said this morning, Mr. Speaker, if one looks only at the terms of Bill C-208 there is a terrible deficiency because all it permits is for the permissible income ceiling to be increased by the same number of dollars that the allowance payable is increased as a result of the application of the formula. A single veteran's maximum allowance is \$121, and 3.6 per cent of that is only \$4.35. A married veteran's maximum allowance is \$201, and 3.6 per cent of that is only \$7.23. If that is all that were to happen, if permissible income ceilings were to be increased only by those figures, then we would have the war veterans allowance recipient getting no advantage from the \$15 or \$30 increase in the guaranteed income supplement provided by the Minister of National Health and Welfare in his legislation.

The minister has met that point most satisfactorily. He tells us that an order in council will be sought to exempt the extra \$15 or extra \$30 from the provisions respecting the ceiling, in the same way as for a number of years the 2 per cent addition has been exempted. This means, if I took the minister correctly—I want to get one more nod of the head from him—that in addition to the provision in the bill itself for raising the ceiling by \$4.35 single and \$7.23 married, there will be an order in council raising it by \$15 or \$30 so that the war veterans allowance recipient this time will get both. He will get the 3.6 per cent increase in the allowance he is receiving, and he will also get the benefit of the extra \$15 under the guaranteed income supplement, which means that this year the single war veterans allowance recipient who is at the maximum can anticipate an increase of \$19.35—that is, \$15 plus \$4.35—and the married war veterans allowance recipient who is at the maximum can anticipate an increase of \$37.23, the \$30 guaranteed income supplement and the \$7.23 increase in the war veterans allowance as a result of this bill. If the minister will just nod his head to that, I will be very happy to call it four o'clock.

• (1600)

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Before the minister nods to anything, I shall have to call it four o'clock.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I just ask the minister to be ready to nod his head when we come back to this bill on Tuesday. Four o'clock.

Mr. Speaker: It being four o'clock, the House will now proceed to the consideration of private members' business as listed on today's order paper, namely, notices of motions.

Marine Resources Development Study

PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

FISHERIES

SUGGESTED IN-DEPTH STUDY OF MARINE RESOURCES AND THEIR DEVELOPMENT

Mr. J. M. Forrestal (Dartmouth-Halifax East) moved:

That in the opinion of this House, the government should consider the development, encouragement and maintenance of a co-ordinated, comprehensive, and long-range national program for the recovery and use of the resources of Canada's sea coast waters and continental shelves; and to this end, effectively utilize the scientific and engineering knowledge and skills of the public service and government agencies and co-operate with private investment enterprise in the exploration, technological development and industrial use of the resources of the marine environment of Canada.

He said: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate for the third time in the last two years an opportunity to address a few remarks to the chamber on the question of the resource that is the ocean around us. I first raised this matter on November 30, 1970, I had an opportunity to deal with it again on December 3, 1971, and I appreciate this further opportunity today.

In a world where the natural resources of the land are becoming more scarce, and where the pervading threat of famine is constant, the ocean and all its possibilities take on a new light. Throughout world history the ocean has played a major role in the life of countries. It has been alternately an avenue for transport in global commerce, a natural barrier contributing to national security and independence, and an arena for conflict. In the seventies the ocean is again emerging at the centre of world power. Not only are submarine missile systems a most important, if not the most important, component of military power nowadays but growing interest in the resources of the continental shelf and the possibility of exploiting these resources on a commercial scale opens up the perspective of a scramble for the sea between nations. In such a context, the whole nature of the sea is altered. However, if the resources of the ocean carry with them frightening consequences, they also generate positive economic effects. The present trend of countries toward the exploitation of the resources of the continental shelf, for example, opens up new, wide possibilities.

For a country such as Canada, where the continental shelf covers an estimated 1,470,000 square miles—an area equivalent to 38 per cent of the total land and freshwater area of the country—the future seems bright. For once, the east coast shall not be excluded from that bright future for its continental shelf covers an estimated area of 430,000 square miles, or over twice the immediately adjacent area of the four Atlantic provinces.

The mineral potential of the ocean certainly lives up to expectations. It is estimated that each cubic mile of sea water contains about 166 million tons of mineral salts; and when one considers that the ocean contains 317 million cubic miles of water, the resources seem astonishing. Chlorine and sodium constitute 84 per cent of these salts; another 9 per cent is constituted by five other elements, magnesium, sulphur, calcium, potassium and bromine, and some 50 or more elements make up the remainder.