

Inquiries of the Ministry

I realize perfectly well that the meeting the minister attended yesterday, with regard to which he reported to some extent today, was carrying out that recommendation; but the answer of the minister was not correct according to the report of the standing committee on veterans affairs.

Hon. Roger Teillet (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, perhaps this is an excellent illustration of attempting to answer questions without notice.

An hon. Member: Without knowledge.

Mr. Teillet: I interpreted, I believed correctly, the recommendation. It was an interpretation; I did not have the text before me. If I have misled my hon. friend I should be glad to apologize. However, I think if he will read the answer again he will realize it is a fairly close interpretation of that recommendation.

[Later:]

Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe East): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Veterans Affairs whether he can indicate to the house how many beds will be available, and what it is proposed to do with those veterans who are chronically ill. Is there a proposal to put them into nursing homes, or what is going to be done with these veterans? My second question is this. With regard to the outlying areas which are some distance from veterans hospitals, what is the proposal respecting those veterans who become ill and who were previously sent to the bigger centres for treatment? Are they to be put on the ordinary waiting lists of these hospitals, many of which have long waiting lists at the moment?

Mr. Speaker: Order. May I suggest to the minister that he take this question as notice.

REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF ALLOWANCES FOR
CHILDREN

On the orders of the day:

Mr. C. F. Kennedy (Colchester-Hants): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Veterans Affairs. In view of the announced extension of family allowances to children of 16 and 17 years, does the minister now intend to announce a similar extension under the veterans charter in respect of children in this age group?

Hon. Roger Teillet (Minister of Veterans Affairs): May I take that question as notice?

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CYPRUS—INQUIRIES RESPECTING PEACE
KEEPING FORCE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Queens): As one
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Irishman to another, I should like to address a question to the honourable and learned Secretary of State for External Affairs. Knowing the proper interest taken by the minister and the government in wider United Nations participation in the Cyprus operation, is the hon. gentleman in a position to report on any wider range of United Nations member involvement in this important peace keeping operation or on any other aspect of the role of the United Nations in this very important operation?

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): I cannot report that any country, in addition to those already announced has given any indication of intention to join the force, but efforts along that line are being pursued.

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): Has Canada been pursuing this matter with some of her friends in an effort to get them to participate, or is it the secretary general who has been doing the pursuing?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): It is being done both by Canada and by the United Nations.

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): Can the secretary of state tell us anything about the Finnish contribution which was rumoured last week?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Finland has already decided to join the force.

Mr. H. A. Olson (Medicine Hat): May I direct a supplementary question to the minister, and ask him if he would care to comment on a report that the Turkish parliament has authorized the government to land troops on Cyprus if necessary? Could he indicate whether, in his view, the Canadian peace force now being assembled on the island would be able to cope with such a situation?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): I am sure the government of Turkey, having expressed, as it did, its pleasure and satisfaction at the establishment of the force, would not wish to take any steps that would make impossible or difficult the operations and work of that force.

[Later:]

Hon. Walter L. Gordon (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, may I reply to a question asked yesterday by the hon. member for Moose Jaw-Lake Centre with regard to a news report that Canadian troops were being paid in U.S. currency in order, according to the report, to pay any debts before leaving for Cyprus. In actual fact the payment was made to ensure that each man was in possession of a small amount of money easily negotiable to cover any expenses that might be incurred en route to Cyprus or in