

Inquiries of the Ministry

On the orders of the day:

Mr. John M. Reid (Kenora-Rainy River): My question is addressed to the Minister of Public Works and it concerns the notice of motion which appears under his name on today's order paper. In view of the fact that debating procedural matters in the House of Commons can become an occupational disease, may we on the back benches have the assurance of the minister that no one who has served for more than five years in the house will be appointed to this committee?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

[Translation]

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Roland Godin (Portneuf): Mr. Speaker, my question concerning confederation is addressed to the Minister of Finance who has now held that portfolio for a year.

Would the minister now be in a position to state how many centuries it will take the Canadian government to pay off the debts it has accumulated since 1867?

Mr. Speaker: Order. That question does not appear to be too urgent. The hon. member has referred to the number of centuries, and I think it would be better to put the question on the order paper.

[English]

OLD AGE SECURITY

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE TO INDIANS AND ESKIMOS IN FILING APPLICATIONS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Robert Simpson (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. In view of the extensive advertising campaign being carried on to inform the recipients of old age pensions of the procedure they should follow in making application for supplementary payments, can the minister tell the house what procedures will be followed to assure that all old age recipients among our Indian and Eskimo peoples eligible for the supplementary payments will be assisted in filing the necessary applications.

Hon. Arthur Laing (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Yes, Mr. Speaker, this will be done.

[Mr. Brewin.]

[Translation]

[Later:]

Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the hon. Minister of National Health and Welfare.

A moment ago, someone asked him whether old age security pensioners will receive application forms. Will forms be sent to all old age pensioners across Canada, not only when they reach 68 or 69 years of age but from the moment they receive their pension? Will forms be sent to these people, so that they may apply for the \$30 monthly supplement?

[English]

Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, application forms will be sent to all recipients of old age security who will then be in a position to apply, if they wish, for the supplement.

Mr. Caouette: A supplementary question. Do I take it that age does not matter, that from 65 years of age on, everyone will receive an application form. Is that it?

Mr. MacEachen: No, Mr. Speaker. Only persons in receipt of old age security will receive application forms. As my hon. friend knows, old age security is not payable at age 65 at the present time, although it will, on a reducing basis, be paid at that age in a few years.

Mr. Caouette: I have another supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Are provinces such as, say, Quebec, where under some kind of allocation the people receive a pension at age 65, entitled to receive help from the federal government, so that the \$30 is applicable to those people over 65 years of age?

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, the recipients of old age assistance, the category to which my hon. friend refers, would be eligible for increased assistance on a shared basis under the Canada Assistance Plan.

LABOUR GAZETTE

DELAY IN DELIVERY OF FRENCH EDITION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J.-A. Mongrain (Trois-Rivières): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Labour. Considering that for the last 12 months I have several times pointed out to the minister that the French edition of the *Labour Gazette* is issued three or four months late, and the minister understandably seems to be embarrassed by this situation, would he be ready to consider the suggestion