

OLD AGE SECURITY

REQUEST FOR ISSUANCE OF CHEQUES BEFORE CHRISTMAS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Barry Mather (Surrey): Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether I could direct a question to the parliamentary secretary to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Can he say whether a second look could be taken at the matter of enabling the recipients of old age pensions to receive their cheques a little earlier, before Christmas, in order that it will be possible for them to have a better Christmas?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member again in this case is asking a question which was asked and answered a few days ago.

REQUEST FOR PENSION INCREASE TO EQUAL COST OF LIVING INCREASE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of National Health and Welfare may I direct this question to the Prime Minister. In view of the suggestion made by Scott Young in his column this morning that old age pensioners will spend their December cheques in a spree on New Year's and thus be in difficulty in January, may I ask the Prime Minister whether the government will reconsider the question of the amount of increase allowed in old age pensions because of the cost of living; in other words, will the government bring in an amendment to the act to permit an increase to equal the actual cost of living increase, so in other words it will not be frozen at 2 per cent?

[Translation]

Mr. Rosaire Gendron (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of National Health and Welfare is now on a tour of health services in the Northwest Territories. He will be back in the house tomorrow and I am sure he will be happy to answer that question.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

NIGERIA—SALE OF ARMS BY BRITAIN

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Bernard Dumont (Frontenac): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the right hon. Prime Minister.

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Inquiries of the Ministry

Since the Prime Minister will be going to England soon, could he assure the house that he will protest to the British Prime Minister the sale of arms by England to Nigeria?

Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, when I meet the British Prime Minister, I intend to speak to him about a number of matters, and I believe the one mentioned by the hon. member will be on the agenda.

[English]

AIR CANADA

POSSIBLE EFFECT ON SAFETY OF WORK DISPUTE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, I had intended to direct this question to the Minister of Transport, but because of the urgent nature of the matter I will direct it to the Prime Minister. Can the Prime Minister tell the house if he has looked into the question of whether the slowdown, work to rule, or whatever it is called of Air Canada personnel will endanger the lives of any passengers or air crew?

Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): So far as I know it will not, but I will gladly inquire.

FISHERIES

INQUIRY AS TO ESTABLISHMENT OF SALT FISH MARKETING BOARD

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Walter C. Carter (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, normally I would have directed this question to the Minister of Fisheries, but in his absence I will direct it to his parliamentary secretary. Can he tell the house whether a salt fish marketing board for Newfoundland and other Atlantic region fishermen is being established and, if not, whether a study is being made of the feasibility of setting up such a marketing board.

Mr. E. F. Whelan (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Fisheries and Forestry): I shall take the question as notice and advise the minister the next day he is in the house.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

INQUIRY AS TO INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. John Burton (Regina East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Forestry and Rural Development. When does the