

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

the matter consistently and vigorously, and I hope shortly to be able to recommend certain action to my colleagues.

**Hon. James Sinclair (Coast-Capilano):** I would like to ask a supplementary question of the Minister of Justice. Did the minister advise the British Columbia branch of the S.P.C.A. to write to their federal members rather than to their provincial members on the question of humane slaughter of live-stock, on the grounds that only the federal government has jurisdiction in the matter?

**Mr. Fulton:** Mr. Speaker, as far as I recall I have had no conversations on the subject with any member of the British Columbia S.P.C.A. I am speaking here from recollection, but I have had conversations with the president of the British Columbia humane slaughter society and it was, as I understood it, in that capacity that I was speaking to him.

As I said a moment ago, this question of humane slaughter has been a matter of concern for some time. I have not had a chance to check my personal files, but my recollection is that a year or so ago I was discussing the matter with the president of the British Columbia humane slaughter society. He came down here and discussed with me, as a private member, what steps might be taken to deal with the matter and my recollection is that he asked whether I felt it would be appropriate for him to write to members of parliament. At that time I told him I saw no reason whatsoever why letters, on a matter of this importance, should not be addressed to federal members, private members as well as members of the government.

That was, as I say, according to my recollection about a year ago, and I do not believe I had any further conversations with him until the end of last week, when he again came to Ottawa and visited me in my capacity as Minister of Justice. At that time, as a result of other suggestions and of the public interest in the matter, it was already a fact that private members as well as members of this government were receiving a large volume of correspondence.

**Mr. Sinclair:** May I ask a further supplementary question. Did the minister on either of these two occasions suggest to him that it was the federal government and not the provincial government which had jurisdiction in this field.

**Mr. Fulton:** From my recollection of the conversation—and I do not know, Mr. Speaker, that I am bound to report conversations that I had as a private individual—I can say that I indicated that this is another

[Mr. Fulton.]

of those cases in which there is a measure of divided responsibility, which makes the subject a more difficult one to deal with. But that is not to say it is incapable of solution and, as I said a moment ago, I expect to be able to make a specific recommendation to my colleagues in the very near future.

**FINANCE****INQUIRY AS TO POSSIBILITY OF ISSUING BILINGUAL GOVERNMENT CHEQUES**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Wilfrid LaCroix (Quebec-Montmorency):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Finance. My question is, could the Minister of Finance, according to existing laws, give instructions for the issuing of bilingual cheques by his department everywhere in Canada?

**Hon. Donald M. Fleming (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for having given me notice of his question. The answer to the question would depend upon the interpretation of the statutes and, as I understand the practice of this house, questions involving the giving of a legal opinion are not asked or answered in the house.

**PENSIONS****REQUEST FOR INCREASE IN PENSIONS OF SUPER-ANNUATED FEDERAL CIVIL SERVANTS**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. F. C. Christian (Okanagan Boundary):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. I believe he has received notice of my intention to ask it. Has any consideration been given by the government to increasing or restoring the purchasing power of the superannuation allowances granted to civil servants who have been retired on account of ill health? If so, what consideration has been given to this matter?

**Hon. Donald M. Fleming (Minister of Finance):** I thank the hon. member for having given me notice of this question. I draw his attention to the fact that this matter, or the broader matter of all pensions paid to superannuated civil servants, has been the subject of a number of questions which have been asked during this session and answered by the Prime Minister. There is nothing that can now be added to the information which the Prime Minister has given to the house.