

*Inquiries of the Ministry***VETERANS AFFAIRS**

WAR VETERANS ALLOWANCES—PROVISION TO RECIPIENTS OF BENEFIT OF ESCALATION PENDING NEW RATES AND CEILINGS

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Veterans Affairs. Can the minister say whether the necessary order in council has been passed, one similar to those of the last two or three years, so that war veterans allowance recipients who are also receiving the guaranteed income supplement will obtain the benefit of the escalation which will be in effect for the next three months, pending the new rates and new ceilings which are to come into effect in April?

Hon. Jean-Eudes Dubé (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Not yet, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Is consideration being given to this being done before the January cheques go out?

Mr. Dubé: Yes, Mr. Speaker. It is under consideration at the present time.

[Later:]

Mr. John Burton (Regina East): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the Minister of Veterans Affairs. Will the minister consider forgoing the reduction in war veterans allowances of 21 cents in some cases and 42 cents in many other cases as a result of changes in the old age pension legislation, since the administrative cost of making such changes would be much greater than the actual reductions in expenditure in many cases?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member's question is being put as an argument.

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CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD

INQUIRY AS TO REPORT ON OPERATIONS—AVAILABILITY TO PUBLIC

Mr. J. H. Horner (Crowfoot): Mr. Speaker, may I direct my question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration who is in charge of the Canadian Wheat Board. Has the commission set up to study the operations of the Canadian Wheat Board turned in its report? Also, is it the intention of the government to make that report public?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I understand that the report has either been received or will be received before very long. Of course, the report is a report to the Canadian Wheat Board. I, personally, will be awaiting it with interest.

Mr. Horner: Mr. Speaker, the latter part of my question was not answered. Perhaps the minister did not hear that part of my question. Do the minister and the government intend to make this report public so that the

[Mr. Forrestall.]

farmers may be able to understand the operations of the Wheat Board which handles their very vital product?

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, the report, as I said, is a report to the Wheat Board. I would want to discuss this matter with them. I presume I will be able to do that soon after they have received the report.

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[Translation]

NATIONAL SECURITY

PAYMENT BY QUEBEC FOR SERVICES OF ARMED FORCES

Hon. Théogène Ricard (Saint-Hyacinthe): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Acting Prime Minister.

Could he indicate to the House whether the government has decided who will pay the expenses incurred by the Armed Forces to maintain order in Quebec since the October crisis?

[Later:]

Mr. Speaker, the Acting Prime Minister seems to have the answer. Could he give it to us.

[English]

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, at one time when this question was asked the Prime Minister said there would be no difficulty in reaching a decision. As far as I know, none has yet been reached.

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FISHERIES

OPENING DATE OF SEAL HARVEST

Mr. Walter C. Carter (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry. Can the minister say if he has yet established the opening date for the seal harvest off the east coast?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry): Mr. Speaker, this date will be announced shortly. At the present time it is under discussion with the industry.

EXTENT OF CANADIAN SEAL QUOTA

Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate): I have a supplementary question with regard to the seal fishery. In light of the 100,000 seal quota for Norway and 100,000 seal quota for Canada, are the 50,000 seals taken in the gulf included as part of Canada's harvest in the international seal fishery, which would mean that we are getting gyped by 50,000 seals?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member will recognize that he has put his question in the form of an argument. As such it is not in order. Perhaps the hon. member might like to rephrase his question.