

Questions

Mr. Speaker: I am doubtful if it is proper to ask for information about a matter pending for debate. I shall look into the matter and see whether or not I am correct in that impression.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I know Your Honour is approaching your responsibilities with very great care and thoroughness, but upon reflection Your Honour may want to give consideration to that opinion. One of the reasons for asking questions prior to a debate is to enable members to have a clear idea as to the course they should pursue in the debate.

Mr. Fleming: Perhaps I could be of assistance on this point of order. There is on the order paper a resolution looking to the introduction of a bill to authorize the government of Canada to make a loan to the province of New Brunswick to cover the cost of financing the Beechwood project. It is hoped that the resolution will be before the house tomorrow. On that resolution, in keeping with the practice of the house, any information that is required and that is relevant will, of course, be forthcoming. When my friend the hon. member for Essex East (Mr. Martin) speaks about the need of having information before debate, he of course means debate on second reading of the bill to follow.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): No; at any time.

Mr. Fleming: The purpose of having a resolution stage on such a measure is to provide whatever information the house requires in the later stages of the measure, and that information will be forthcoming on the resolution stage.

Mr. Speaker: I am speaking from memory, but it seems to me that there is a precedent for the statement I made that where a matter is pending on the order paper for debate it is not proper to take the time of the house to ask questions. However, I will look into the matter and not commit myself finally this morning.

[Later:]

Mr. Speaker: With respect to starred question 45, the Clerk has given me a citation which was the one I probably had in mind in the statement I made. It is citation No. 295 of Beauchesne, third edition, at page 119 and in part it is as follows:

A question oral or written must not—

Then you have a great many subheadings, and subheading (v) reads:

Anticipate an order of the day or other matters.

[Mr. Pickersgill.]

So in so far as the question relates to Beechwood, which is an order of the day, I would think the citation is authority for the proposition that it is not in order.

WAR VETERANS ALLOWANCE INCREASES

Question No. 46—Mr. Thompson (Edmonton-Strathcona):

1. Has the ceiling on war veterans allowances been increased sufficiently to give married veterans full advantage of the increase in old age security pensions?

2. If not, have steps been taken by the government to avoid reductions in war veterans allowances in such circumstances?

Hon. A. J. Brooks (Minister of Veterans Affairs): The answer to questions Nos. 1 and 2 is as follows. In no case does the income ceiling under the War Veterans' Allowance Act permit payment of the maximum war veterans allowance to a recipient of pension under the Old Age Security Act. The old age security pension is treated as income on the same basis as income from other sources—for instance, superannuation or disability pension. However, the recent amendments of the war veterans allowance income ceilings had the following results. In the case of a single veteran, the ceiling now permits an income of \$1,080 a year or \$90 per month, and in the case of a married veteran \$1,740 a year or \$145 per month. This is over and above exempted income or receipts from casual labour.

GROUNDING OF C.G.S. "BAFFIN"

Question No. 47—Mr. Fisher:

1. Was there a radar operator on duty aboard the C.G.S. *Baffin* when it grounded on Black rock?

2. If so, did the operator inform the captain that Black rock was ahead?

3. At what times did he inform the captain about the position of Black rock?

4. What time was the grounding?

5. At the time of the grounding, did the captain or the chief hydrographer have supreme control of the ship?

6. If the chief hydrographer was in control, was he given any message from the radar operator re the position of Black rock?

Hon. Paul Comtois (Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys): This question is in six parts. The answers are as follows:

1. No; no one classified as such. Radar watch is maintained by the officer of the watch.

2. Yes; he informed him the rock was 20 degrees on the port bow.

3. Exact time not noted; approximately five minutes before grounding.

4. Exactly 1632 hours; that is 4.32 p.m.

5. The captain always has supreme control of the ship. The senior assistant hydrographer was directing the course of the ship on a sounding line, from the hydrographers' chart room.