

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (President of the Privy Council):

1. Power Corporation being a private corporation, information about its direct or indirect interest in exploration, importation, sale or transmission of any energy resource may be found wholly or partly in public records of competent regulatory agencies in Canada, the media generally and specialized periodicals particularly, and failing this, through inquiries directed to the Corporation's Headquarters or specialists in the field of energy or the capital market place.

2. No, with respect to direct or indirect interest by trust, family or corporate device in Power Corporation. As to the second aspect of the question, this is so broad in scope that it cannot be answered since it could embrace holdings of policies issued by private insurance companies, deposits in banks, trust companies and credit unions, some or all of which operate in capital markets.

VETERANS' HOSPITALS

Question No. 3,133—Mr. McKinnon:

1. As of October 1, 1975, how many veterans hospitals are still under the control and operation of the Department of Veterans Affairs and where are they located?

2. How many hospitals have been turned over to provincial or municipal authorities in the past three years and where are they located?

3. Is it the intention of the Department to force the handover of those hospitals which have not to date been handed over to provincial or municipal officials, or is it the intention of the Department to retain those hospitals indefinitely?

Hon. Daniel J. MacDonald (Minister of Veterans Affairs): 1. Six: Camp Hill Hospital, Halifax, N.S., Queen Mary Veterans Hospital, Montreal, P.Q., Ste. Anne's Hospital, Ste. Anne de Bellevue, P.Q., Westminster Hospital, London, Ontario, Deer Lodge Hospital, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Colonel Belcher Hospital, Calgary, Alberta.

2. Three: Lancaster Hospital, Saint John, N.B., Shaugnessy Hospital, Vancouver, B.C., Victoria Veterans Hospital, Victoria, B.C.

3. It is still the intention that veterans' hospitals be transferred to the community under conditions acceptable to the Department.

UIC—NUMBER OF CLAIMS AND BENEFITS PAID IN 1974

Question No. 3,159—Mr. Reynolds:

1. (a) How many claims were made against the Unemployment Insurance Commission during the year 1974 (b) how many were initial claims?

2. What were the total benefits paid for the year 1974?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): In so far as the Unemployment Insurance Commission is concerned—1 and 2. See Statistics Canada Publication 73-001 entitled "Statistical Report on the Operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act".

Animal Contagious Diseases

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

ANIMAL CONTAGIOUS DISEASES ACT

AMENDMENT TO EXTEND THE APPLICATION OF THE ACT

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture) moved that Bill C-28, to amend the Animal Contagious Diseases Act, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Agriculture.

He said: Mr. Speaker, Canada's animal health standards are among the highest in the world. As a result, our livestock and livestock products are welcome in practically every country of the world. Last year our exports of live animals, meat, poultry and livestock by-products were worth close to \$475 million. They were shipped to 120 different countries, all requiring Canadian veterinary health certification of varying degrees.

Within Canada, more than half of all farm income comes from the sale of livestock and livestock products. In 1974, farm cash receipts for cattle, hogs, sheep, poultry, eggs and dairy products were more than \$4 billion. The extent of our animal exports and the prosperity of the Canadian livestock industry is directly linked to the high standards of animal health which are maintained in this country under the provisions of the Animal Contagious Diseases Act.

The savings to the cattle industry because bovine tuberculosis has been eradicated is more than \$15 million annually, not to mention the savings in human misery and hospitalization costs from bovine tuberculosis in humans. The reduction of brucellosis in cattle to less than 1 per cent of the cattle population results in similar savings, including the reduction of undulant fever in humans. It has cost Canada approximately one cent per marketed hog to maintain complete freedom from hog cholera. Prior to the present eradication program in the United States, it cost \$1 per marketed hog to keep hog cholera under control through the use of vaccines. Before the introduction of the eradication program, hog cholera had cost the United States \$75 million per year. Hog cholera has not been completely eradicated in the United States. Last July there was an outbreak in the state of Texas and, using eradication techniques, they eradicated some 3,000 swine.

These three examples, together with our livestock and livestock exports, which are dependent upon our animal health status, give adequate proof that it is to Canada's advantage, not only from a livestock production point of view but from a human health point of view, to maintain the highest possible standards of animal health.

The original act to control and eradicate animal diseases was passed by this House in 1869. Since that time it has been amended as needed to keep pace with changing conditions. We are now at a point in time when the act must be further updated if we are to protect Canadian farmers against livestock losses due to disease, and retain our international reputation and markets for high quality livestock.

This bill to amend the Animal Contagious Diseases Act provides, as set out on pages 14 and 15, clauses 31 and 32, authority for the development of a program for reducing the incidence of disease and sickness in animals entering