

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

that the rights of Canadian veterans within the Public Service of Canada are being upheld?

**Hon. Jean-Eudes Dubé (Minister of Veterans Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, there are very many veterans, some disabled, working in my department. Very few will be affected, and those who will be have only now received surplus notices. Every effort is being made to reassign them to other positions.

**Mr. MacEwan:** Mr. Speaker, I am asking the minister what he is doing about all the veterans in all departments of the Public Service.

**Mr. Dubé:** Mr. Speaker, I have no authority, of course, to deal with other departments, but—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Dubé:**—under the law veterans have preference with respect to obtaining positions.

**POLLUTION****AIR—ACTION FOLLOWING STATEMENT  
BY NRC COMMITTEE**

**Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North):** Mr. Speaker, in view of the grave results of increasing air pollution, as voiced by a special committee of the National Research Council, will the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources indicate what action is being taken to protect the Canadian people?

**Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, there is continuing review and consideration in my department regarding questions of air pollution. At the present time, there is no comparable legislation to the Canada water bill in respect of air. I can assure my hon. friend that this is the subject of critical review by the government and various departments including my own, the Department of National Health and Welfare and others engaged in a studies of environmental questions. If, in conjunction with the provinces, we can reach an accord as to the best manner of tackling this problem, then we will indeed tackle it through federal legislation, if applicable.

[*Later:*]

**Mr. Thomas S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the right hon. Prime Minister a question arising out of

[**Mr. MacEwan.**]

the answer just given to the House by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources regarding air pollution. Does the statement by the minister mean that the proposed national clean air bill to be introduced by the Minister of National Health and Welfare has been abandoned?

**SHIPPING****SINKING OF FISHING VESSEL—REQUEST  
FOR STATEMENT**

**Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to "the" cabinet minister from the Atlantic provinces, the Minister of Transport. Since he is interested in marine disasters, namely, the loss of a ship off the coast of Africa, is he in a position to report to the House on the results of the investigation by his department regarding the sinking of a vessel off the coast of Cape Breton as a result of which five lives were lost?

**Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, as yet only an interim report has been received from the investigating team. I feel it would be desirable to wait until the full report is in, at which time I would be more than pleased to make it available to the House.

**INDIAN AFFAIRS****REQUEST FOR RESEARCH FUNDS**

**Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris):** Mr. Speaker, when will the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development be making an announcement in respect of the request of the National Indian Brotherhood, made at a meeting with the minister on November 7 last, for a special fund to be used to assist Indians in carrying out research with a view to solving their own problems?

[*Translation*]

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, I had an opportunity to meet with Mr. Andrew Delisle, president of the committee established by the Indians to inquire into their rights and their treaties, and I have discussed certain proposals with him. He intends to start work early next year, and I have assured him that we shall provide the committee with part of the money needed to complete its work.