

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

[Translation]

**INDUSTRY****MANIWAKI, QUE.—REQUEST FOR GRANT TO HELP  
CITIZENS' CO-OPERATIVE TO ACQUIRE SOGEFOR—  
EFFORTS TO FIND NEW MARKETS**

**Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi):** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, I should like to put my question to his Parliamentary Secretary.

Could he tell us whether the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce is in a position to grant a substantial subsidy to the citizens of Maniwaki who have organized a co-operative in order to purchase the Sogefor plants?

[English]

**Mr. Bruce Howard (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce has looked very closely at the problems encountered by Sogefor. There are a number of problems involving markets and supplies of timber. I suggest to the hon. member that any request for special, financial assistance to the company should be directed to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion.

[Translation]

**Mr. Laprise:** I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, which is precisely the one I discussed at the time of adjournment last night. Nevertheless I would like to ask the Parliamentary Secretary if in the course of his present travels the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce will try and find outlets for the production of these plants.

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[English]

**NATIONAL DEFENCE****RENTAL INCREASE FOR PERMANENT MARRIED QUARTERS  
—WHITE PAPER—DESTROYER CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM**

**Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Defence. While he is on his feet, perhaps he might also give some indication with respect to the question of rents which I asked him about earlier. Can he indicate to the House and country when we may expect his white paper on defence policy? In preparing the white paper, has he given consideration to dividing it into two parts, one part that would deal specifically with the need for funding for new weapons systems and replacement systems and the other with the more general question of defence policy?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, the timetable I have set for internal purposes and which I hope to meet would mean that it would be available for the House about Easter. With respect to the hon. member's suggestion, I shall reflect on it. It seems to me that the question of the actual policy should come first and, closely related to that, should come the question of equipment and arrangements with

[Mr. Sharp.]

regard to equipment. I shall be glad to consider his suggestion.

I have examined the question of rents, which the hon. member was kind enough to bring to my attention last week. I find that it is being considered in conjunction with the general question of housing for members of the Armed Forces which the hon. member for Malpeque was kind enough to bring forward about a month ago. I hope within several weeks to be able to make a statement comprehensive of all aspects of this question of accommodation.

**Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West):** Mr. Speaker, with regard to rental increases for married quarters, could the minister not hurry up his consideration of the matter since the personnel concerned have been advised already of increases in rentals effective April 1 which will more than offset the last increases in pay?

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** Mr. Speaker, we have a little way to go to April 1, but it seems to me that the most sensible thing is to make a general statement with regard to both rental and housing policy.

**Mr. Forrestall:** Mr. Speaker, in making a general statement, I wonder if the minister would advise the House of the present status of the DDH program and the extent to which there is a growing urgency with regard to refunding that program?

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** Yes, Mr. Speaker, I will be glad to consider that. I hope to be in a position to report to the House and, more particularly, to the Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence on this and other matters about the middle of next month, when I gather that the estimates will be available before the committee.

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**TRANSPORT****SNOWMOBILES—REQUEST FOR TABELING OF LIST OF  
SAFETY SPECIFICATIONS—NATIONAL MANUAL**

**Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. It relates to earlier questions about the safety of snowmobiles. Since the decision of a coroner's jury last week in North Bay, Ontario, laid the blame for a snowmobile accident jointly on an inadequate braking and steering system and the inexperience of snowmobilers, is the minister now prepared to table in the House a list of basic safety specifications that his department considers to be essential with regard to the production and sale of snow machines in this country?

**Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport):** Yes, Mr. Speaker. If I understood the hon. gentleman's question correctly, there are some ten regulations that have been gazetted. The other day I indicated I was not sure if they had been but I have learned that they were. It