

his questions today and pose them at another time. I recognize the hon. member for Algoma (Mr. Foster).

**Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma):** Madam Speaker, since acid rain is a particular problem in northern Ontario where we have granite rock and, consequently, the water is not buffered, and where we have an inflow of pollutants from the United States mid-west and the whole industrial complex there, I should like to direct some questions to the minister.

I am aware that a certain amount of research has been going on at the Great Lakes Forest Research Laboratories at Sault Ste. Marie in northern Ontario, but I am wondering whether there is a commitment to additional funding for more research, especially in those parts of northern Ontario where we do not have the large bodies of water such as the Great Lakes to buffer the effects of these pollutants. Is there a commitment to more man-years and dollars for research to overcome the difficulties associated with the acid rain problem?

**Mr. Roberts:** Yes, Madam Speaker. As I tried to make clear in reply to earlier questions, considerably increased efforts in this regard were made, as a matter of principle, by the previous government. The funding for these commitments was never confirmed. It is our intent to increase the funding in relation to acid rain research beyond the figure which had been projected by the previous government. I cannot be specific on the exact details, at least at this moment, as to how much of that research will take place in various parts of the country, but I will certainly search for that information and provide it to the hon. member.

\* \* \*

**PETITIONS**

**REQUEST FOR SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN PENSIONS OF SENIOR CITIZENS**

**Hon. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Madam Speaker, I ask leave of the House to present a petition signed by nearly 5,000 persons, mostly from Saskatchewan but also Alberta and British Columbia. The petition was produced and distributed by the Saskatchewan Senior Citizens Action Now Association, a few members of that association being with us in Ottawa today.

The petition earnestly requests a substantial increase in the amount of pensions paid to our senior citizens; it asks for consideration of ways and means to facilitate older people continuing to live in their own homes; and it makes other suggestions to enhance the dignity of our older people.

I am happy to present the petition on behalf of the nearly 5,000 persons who signed it.

*Order Paper Questions*

**CANADA-FRANCE TRADE AGREEMENT ACT, 1933  
SUPPLEMENTARY CANADA-FRANCE TRADE  
AGREEMENT ACT, 1935**

MEASURE TO REPEAL

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (for the Secretary of State for External Affairs)** moved the first reading of Bill S-5 from the Senate, to repeal the Canada-France Trade Agreement Act, 1933 and the Supplementary Canada-France Trade Agreement Act, 1935.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

\* \* \*

[Translation]

**QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER**

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

**Mr. John Evans (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance):** Madam Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: Nos. 206, 252, 310, 311, 312 and 314.

Madam Speaker, I ask that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.

[Text]

**NATIONAL DEFENCE—REGULAR FORCES—INFANTRY STRENGTH**

**Question No. 206—Mr. Herbert:**

1. For each year on January 1, 1967 to 1979, what was the infantry strength of the regular forces?
2. What is the projected infantry strength for January 1 (a) 1980 (b) 1981 (c) 1982?

**Hon. J. Gilles Lamontagne (Minister of National Defence):**

1. Infantry Strength on January 1

Year	Total	
1967	9,112	
1968	8,907	
1969	8,558	
1970	8,097	
1971	8,185	
1972	8,050	
1973	7,930	
1974	8,205	
1975	7,973	
1976	8,014	* Note 1
1977	7,651	"
1978	7,649	"
1979	7,614	"

2. (a) (b) and (c)