

**Mr. Sharp:** No, Mr. Speaker. There are a number of areas where the government has not drawn base lines. It is not the intention to complete the map at the present time.

**An hon. Member:** Why not?

**Mr. Sharp:** To do so in some areas would be to take an action that might compromise the position of the Canadian government in future declarations.

### NATURAL RESOURCES

#### REQUEST FOR MORATORIUM ON OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION PENDING STEPS TO PROTECT ARCTIC ECOLOGY

**Mr. Randolph Harding (Kootenay West):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Acting Prime Minister. Will the department responsible review its position in relation to the call by the Canadian Wildlife Federation for a partial moratorium on oil and gas exploration in the Arctic region until it has acquired the information, technology and trained personnel as well as adequate safeguards to ensure the fullest protection of our Arctic ecology?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the government will give consideration to this suggestion. Of course I cannot say that we will follow it, but we will certainly look at it.

### VETERANS AFFAIRS

#### REQUEST FOR INTERIM INCREASE IN PENSIONS AND ALLOWANCES

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Veterans Affairs. I ask him whether his department and the government have received a request from the Royal Canadian Legion, that because of the desperate circumstances of many veterans across Canada receiving war pensions and war veterans allowances, for an interim increase of 10 per cent in the basic rate of war disability pensions and a 15 per cent interim increase in war veterans allowances? If it has been received, will he give sympathetic consideration to the plight of these veterans across the country who find themselves receiving little or no consideration, especially having regard to the increases that have been provided for retired civil servants and the like?

**Hon. Jean-Eudes Dubé (Minister of Veterans Affairs):** Yes, Mr. Speaker, we have received these representations. We have also

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read the editorial in *The Legionary*. I repeat what has already been said in the House, that the whole structure of social legislation is at present under review by the government of Canada. The same attention and sympathy which have been shown by this government to veterans will continue in the future.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, surely the minister does not suggest that war veterans allowances and war pensions for disabilities are in the same category as social legislation? These are matters that deserve consideration and should not be postponed by a procrastinating government.

**Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina-Lake Centre):** In view of the requests that I am sure all hon. members have been receiving from veterans receiving war veterans allowances and other pensions, is the government considering some form of increase, albeit temporary or interim, until such time as its review is complete in order that the present pensions will at least keep up with the increased cost of living?

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member is repeating in substance what has already been asked by the right hon. member for Prince Albert.

**Mr. Benjamin:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I was trying to ascertain whether, until such time as the government has completed its review, it is considering granting a temporary or interim increase?

**Mr. Dubé:** The government is considering all possibilities, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** In the meantime the veterans starve.

### LABOUR CONDITIONS

#### ARGENTIA, NFLD.—CLOSING OF U.S. NAVAL BASE—PLANS TO COPE WITH UNEMPLOYMENT

**Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore):** I wish to direct my question to the Acting Prime Minister. In view of the imminent closing of the naval base at Argentia, Newfoundland, what special plans does the government have to cope with the additional unemployment which will be created by the closing of this base?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister):** All the departments concerned are on the job—the Department of Regional Economic Expansion, the Department of Manpower and Immigration and all the others. They have been given special instructions to