

Questions

3. The Atlantic Tidal Power Programming Board expects to complete its report on this study by about the end of the calendar year.

RAIDS ON NEWSPAPER OFFICES
BY COMBINES OFFICIALS

Question No. 390—**Mr. Flemming:**

Was any examination made or raids conducted by officials under the Combines Investigation Act on any others newspaper offices in Canada, except the *Daily Gleaner*, of Fredericton, New Brunswick during the years 1966, 1967, 1968 and 1969?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Yes.

EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF FREDERICTON
"GLENER"

Question No. 391—**Mr. Flemming:**

Was a request made for an examination of the records of the *Daily Gleaner* of Fredericton, New Brunswick prior to the raid on that newspaper office by officials under the Combines Investigation Act and, if so, by whom?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): The usual procedure was followed in this case, namely: the Director of Investigation and Research, having reason to believe that the Act had been or was about to be violated applied to the Restrictive Trade Practices Commission for a certificate allowing him to exercise the power of entry and search provided under section 10 of the Combines Investigation Act. To proceed in any other way would give rise to serious problems of proving the documentary evidence.

CLOSING OF CERTAIN POST OFFICES

Question No. 415—**Mr. Mazankowski:**

Is consideration being given to the closing of the following post offices in Alberta (a) Duvernay (b) Brosseau (c) Foisy (d) Lafond?

Hon. Eric W. Kierans (Postmaster General and Minister of Communications): 1. (a) Yes; (b) yes; (c) yes; (d) It has been decided to retain the Lafond, Alberta Post Office which had been considered for closing.

LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER FROM PRESIDENT,
RCAF ASSOCIATION

Question No. 436—**Mr. MacLean:**

Has the Prime Minister received a letter from Mr. Alex M. Jardine, National President of the RCAF Association on the matter of Canada's Defence Forces and, if so, has this letter been replied to and what was the nature of the reply?

[Mr. Greene.]

Mr. J. E. Walker (Parliamentary Secretary to Prime Minister): Yes: an acknowledgement was sent to Mr. Jardine informing him that his letter was referred to the Minister of National Defence for study and further reply.

TOTAL STRENGTH, REGULAR AND RESERVE
FORCES

Question No. 437—**Mr. MacLean:**

On the most recent date for which figures are available (a) what was the total strength of the Regular Defence Forces of Canada (b) what was the total strength of personnel in the sea, land and air environments respectively (c) what was the total strength of the corresponding three elements of the Reserve Forces on the same date?

Hon. Léo Cadieux (Minister of National Defence): As of 30 September 1969: (a) and (b) sea, 17,844; land, 36,675; air, 42,525—Total 97,044. (c) Sea, 2,330; land, 23,619; air, 789—Total 26,738.

*USE OF VIRUSES AS INSECTICIDES

Question No. 469—**Mr. Nesbitt:**

1. How soon is it expected that viruses will be available for use as insecticides, as referred to in the publication known as "News" issued by the federal Department of Agriculture, Issue No. 1346, for the week ending November 7, 1969?

2. Are precautions being taken to make absolutely certain that no dangerous effects will result from the proposed dissemination of viruses for insecticide or any other purpose, unlike the precautions advocated by scientists in the past with respect to DDT?

3. What are the details of the precautions in (2) above?

4. What scientists or scientific bodies have been or will be consulted with respect to the use of viruses as insecticides?

5. Has the government received warnings or any other information that would indicate that such use of viruses might be potentially hazardous?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, the answer to the question is as follows: 1. Developmental work on the commercial use of viruses as insecticides has been undertaken by two companies in the U.S.A. No Canadian commercial production is currently anticipated. The first virus formulations specifically directed to the cotton bollworm and corn earworm in the United States are not likely to reach commercial status until 1971. This insect specific virus is not likely to have commercial application in Canada. Another virus which may be suitable for cabbage looper control in Canada is not likely to be available before 1973 for