

*Oral Questions***PUBLIC SERVICE****INDEXING OF PENSIONS—REQUEST FOR TABLING OF STUDY BY SUPERINTENDENT OF INSURANCE**

**Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the President of the Treasury Board. Some weeks ago I raised with him the question as to whether he would consider publishing actuarial studies made by the superintendent of insurance on the proposals for full indexing of public service pensions. At that time he indicated he would take the matter under advisement. I have asked him subsequently, and now I am asking him whether a decision has been taken and when can we expect publication of these reports in light of more and better information for the administration?

**Hon. Robert K. Andras (President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, a decision has not been taken. As I indicated to the hon. member in another forum, I am committed to making public the results of the independent actuarial examination when it is completed, which I expect to be in the next few months.

**Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West):** Mr. Speaker, is the minister suggesting in addition thereto, and as a basis of comparison with the studies of the superintendent of insurance which was made quite some time ago and completed, that he is now waiting for further studies under the Tomenson-Alexander or whatever may be the name of the report so that the two studies will be on a comparable basis when he publishes them?

**Mr. Andras:** Mr. Speaker, that inference is not necessarily the case.

**Mr. Tom Cossitt (Leeds):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Acting Prime Minister; but in fairness I should say first to the Chair that it might be construed as being indirectly connected to the question of privilege which I will be raising at three o'clock. If you would prefer me to defer it, I will.

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● (1500)

**NATIONAL DEFENCE****ALLEGED SALE BY ITALY OF LEOPARD TANKS TO LIBYA AND EXAMINATION BY SOVIET EXPERTS—GOVERNMENT ACTION**

**Mr. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Defence. It has been reported that some Leopard I tanks have been sold by an Italian manufacturer to Libya, from where they not surprisingly found their way into the hands of Soviet technical military experts, who examined them thoroughly. What steps has the minister taken to discover to what extent the security and technical effectiveness of our future main battle tank have now been hopelessly compromised before we even receive delivery of the first of them? Will the minister tell the House whether he is going to raise this matter at the meeting of NATO's nuclear planning group which begins its meetings

[Mr. Oberle.]

here in Ottawa tomorrow and, if not, what action does he propose to take?

**Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, I am not familiar with the details of the case but I will be speaking on this to other NATO ministers this evening. I do not think there has been any great compromise; it would surprise me if there had because they are pretty familiar with that tank right now. They are mighty scared of it.

**Mr. McKinnon:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that the Leopard I's technical secrets have now been compromised, will the minister reconsider this purchase and instead approach the Krauss-Maffei company with a view to renegotiating our contract, so as to continue renting the Leopard I's until 1980 and then purchase the more modern Leopard II?

**Mr. Danson:** No, Mr. Speaker, I would not consider that because the Leopard I is onstream, the troops are happy with it. They are winning all the competitions in Europe and bringing great pride to Canada.

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[Translation]

**CUSTOMS****ALLEGED FALSE INFORMATION ON QUEBEC GIVEN BY CUSTOMS OFFICERS**

**Mr. Thomas H. Lefebvre (Pontiac):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to put a question to the Minister of National Revenue.

Many hunting and fishing outfitters and other tradesmen of the Maniwaki region complain about the erroneous information given to American tourists last weekend by customs officers in Sarnia and at the Thousand Islands bridge. Many tourists reported that they had been advised by them not to visit western Quebec since access to forests were forbidden because of fires and that the French language was now compulsory in Quebec. Could the minister seek information on that matter and make sure that in future the information relayed does reflect the reality, namely that forest roads were closed only from May 20 to May 28 and that the citizens of Upper Gatineau and of all western Quebec will welcome as usual the numerous visitors of our beautiful region in the language of their choice?

**Hon. Monique Bégin (Minister of National Revenue):** Mr. Speaker, I am a little annoyed at the idea that such situations may occur because in spite of their role customs agents are expected to extend a warm welcome to tourists. I can assure the House that they are not supposed to express any personal opinion, including giving tourist information, and unless I am mistaken it so happens that right beside one of the two bridges mentioned there is a tourist office manned by officials of one of the two implied provinces involved. I will see to it that they do their job as usual, that is without proffering political opinions.