

ter's earlier answer. He says there will be an assessment of the adequacy of the armed services. Can he advise the House whether this is a result of some criticism by NATO or the result of what has taken place in recent days in the province of Quebec?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): I can confirm there was no criticism from NATO.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): And there was no criticism from any part of the country about the response of the armed forces. In fact, even Claude Ryan thought they had done rather well.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

INCREASE IN RESERVE FORCE TRAINING

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Malpeque): I have a question for the Minister of National Defence. Is the minister in a position to announce any plans, if such plans exist, with regard to an increase in training for the reserve forces during 1971, either in numbers or in the length of courses given?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of National Defence): No, sir, not at this time.

DESTROYER CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM—ADDITIONAL COST

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Lancaster): Now that we know the two destroyers will be launched in the St. Lawrence in the next few days, can the Minister of National Defence tell us how much additional money is involved and, if not, when will he be able to give the House this information?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of National Defence): The program is currently being reviewed. As a matter of fact, negotiations are taking place between the representatives of the government and the two contractors concerned with regard to the contracts. It is expected that the result of the negotiations and the final assessment in this regard will be available by about the end of the year.

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FINANCE

SUGGESTED REDUCTION OF BANK INTEREST RATES BECAUSE OF HIGH PROFITS

Mr. John Gilbert (Broadview): My question is directed to the Minister of Finance. In view of reports that the banks have made tremendous profits, more especially the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, up by 13 per cent in one year, and the Canadian National Bank, up by 15.7 per cent, will the minister ask the banks to roll back their interest rates so that their profits may fall within the 6 per cent guideline suggested by the government?

Inquiries of the Ministry

[Translation]

MANPOWER

QUEBEC—PROVISION OF RETRAINING COURSES FOR FARMERS' WIVES

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration.

With a view to enabling farmers' wives to contribute to a larger extent to the success of agriculture, has the minister looked into the possibility of purchasing for those ladies training courses from the province of Quebec?

[English]

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I shall have to take this question as notice.

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AIR TRANSPORT

ARCTIC REGION—PROVISION OF ADEQUATE NAVIGATIONAL AND LANDING AIDS

Mr. Charles H. Thomas (Moncton): Mr. Speaker, my question was for the Minister of Transport who I thought was supposed to be in the House today. In his absence may I redirect it to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development since he may have a personal interest in the matter. My question arises out of statements made at the International Aviation Council meeting last week with regard to the alleged lack of navigational and landing aids in the northern and Arctic regions. Would the minister confer with his counterpart to ascertain what action the Department of Transport is taking to provide adequate navigational and landing aids to ensure the safety of those travelling by air in Arctic regions?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, we passed legislation concerning control of navigation in the north last winter. I am also very much aware that the Minister of Transport is devoting a lot of his attention to the problem of navigation in the north, and I will convey to him what the hon. member has said today.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CANADA-UNITED STATES MINISTERIAL MEETING—REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS ON SUBJECTS DISCUSSED

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance. Now that the ministerial committee meeting with the ministers' counterparts in the United States is over, I wonder whether he would indicate when he, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources will be making statements on the various subjects dealt with in the intergovernmental talks during the last two days?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I believe that the Secretary of State for External Affairs will be tabling a communiqué tomorrow.