

already in the Armed Forces? If he is not willing to do so, are we to assume that women are not full and legitimate members of the Canadian Armed Forces today, in 1985?

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, I have just reassured the Hon. Member, in response to his first question, that whatever that document contains does not constitute government policy and that when that policy is formulated it will be announced in the appropriate way. Again I express surprise at this line of questioning coming from him when he describes as a red herring an amendment ensuring women's equality rights which we proposed, and which they had to accept when they were in office. We did not consider that to be a red herring. I am very surprised that he does.

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[Translation]

#### ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

PCB SPILLS IN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, NEW BRUNSWICK AND QUEBEC

**Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg-Birds Hill):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of the Environment. Yesterday, upon leaving the House, the Minister said that Hydro Quebec had been advised of the new regulations on transporting PCBs and that it should have passed this information on to the carrier whose truck recently leaked PCBs in Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and Quebec. The Minister also said, and I quote: "The new regulations are very clear on the manner in which this product is to be shipped, and if there is any infringement of these regulations, charges will certainly be laid." Could the Minister inform the House today whether the Government intends to lay charges against Hydro Quebec or the carrier responsible for the PCB leak last week?

**Hon. Suzanne Blais-Grenier (Minister of the Environment):** Mr. Speaker, I thank the Hon. Member for his question. Obviously, if it is proved that the regulations now in effect have been infringed, charges will be laid.

[English]

POSITION OF DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

**Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg-Birds Hill):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Minister of Transport, given that the Minister of the Environment displayed her usual passion for the environment. Could he tell us whether his Department, as the Department in charge of transportation of dangerous goods, has initiated any inquiry? There is some rumour to the effect that violations of the Canada Shipping Act and violations of the directive issued by the Minister have taken place. I am wondering whether the Minister has taken an interest in this event, whether there will be an investigation, and whether there is a willingness on the part of the Govern-

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ment to pursue it to the full extent of the law if these violations are confirmed?

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport):** Yes, Mr. Speaker, this Minister has taken an interest in this issue. I indicated to the House yesterday that the matter was being investigated by a Transport Canada inspector and that tests were being conducted on the level of the concentration of the PCBs. As soon as all that information is available, and it should be available by the end of this week, a decision will be made. In so far as prosecution is concerned, that determination will be made next week. I should say as well that there has been excellent co-operation on the part of Transport Canada, the Department of the Environment, and the provincial authorities, in this whole issue.

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[Translation]

#### NATIONAL DEFENCE

AN OFFICER'S OPINION—MINISTER'S POSITION

**Mrs. Lucie Pépin (Outremont):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Defence.

On a recent trip to Germany with the Canadian Forces, an officer actually told me that having five men go to battle and only one come back would be much better than having five women in the same situation and only one come back, because the man could then impregnate the women who stayed home, and it was a matter of the survival of the human race, because one male could replenish the entire stock.

Mr. Speaker, now that we have the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and considering the very positive experience of female cadets in the armed forces, does the Minister not think this is a decadent sign of male chauvinism and is he prepared to endorse such outrageous statements?

[English]

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, I would certainly not be prepared to endorse the philosophy expressed by the the Hon. Member as having come from an officer with whom she was speaking when she was in Germany without knowing what was that expression of philosophy. However, I can tell her that it is the ambition or the determination of every member of the Forces, of whatever sex they might be, in a wartime mode or in a battle mode to strive to the utmost of get back in one piece.

[Translation]

ARMED FORCES' MENTALITY—MEASURES TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT

**Mrs. Lucie Pépin (Outremont):** I have a supplementary, Mr. Speaker.