

Inquiries of the Ministry

and I have no information from any official quarter which would confirm them or that an attack on these islands is imminent. Of course, in the present situation it always remains a dangerous possibility. As far as our policy in respect to this matter is concerned it has already been made clear, and I do not think I need repeat it here, that if an attack were made on these offshore islands it would not involve the intervention of the Canadian government.

VETERANS AFFAIRS**SUGGESTED PAYMENT OF INCREASED ALLOWANCES
IN APRIL**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Clarence Gillis (Cape Breton South): Mr. Speaker, may I address a question to the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Veterans Affairs. I did not notify him of my intention to ask this question because I did not think it required notice. Is it the intention of the government to amend Bill No. 164, to amend the War Veterans Allowance Act, to make the allowance payable in April regardless of whether or not that bill is passed in March?

Mr. C. E. Bennett (Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Veterans Affairs): The hon. member is wrong, in that I do require notice of this question. I shall bring it to the attention of the minister and will let the hon. member know in the near future.

INQUIRY FOR RETURNS**ARMED FORCES—STRENGTH—RECRUITING**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. D. S. Harkness (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of National Defence when I might expect to receive answers to two questions which were passed as orders for returns on February 28 and which concern entirely the Department of National Defence.

Hon. R. O. Campney (Minister of National Defence): I was not aware that any of our orders for returns were delinquent. I shall look into the matter.

FISHERIES**REPORTED DAMAGE ON NORTH
SHORE OF LAKE ERIE**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. James Sinclair (Minister of Fisheries): Yesterday the hon. member for Elgin (Mr. McBain) asked my parliamentary assistant whether I was aware of the widespread storm damage caused to the fishing industry

[Mr. Pearson.]

on the north shore of lake Erie and whether representations were made to me by fishermen's associations or by the provincial government.

I am aware of the damage that was done last week. The hon. members for Kent, Ont., (Mr. Huffman) and Norfolk (Mr. Anderson) brought to me wires from fishermen's organizations. I pointed out to them, however, that both commercial and sport fishing in the province of Ontario are entirely under the jurisdiction of the province, other than the inspection of fish at points of export. I told them that the practice in the provinces where we do control the fisheries is for the provincial government to assess the storm damage. If the province decides to assist, and the amount of assistance is beyond the financial capacity of the province, the federal department of fisheries has assisted.

TRADE**LEAD AND ZINC—REPORTED INCREASE IN
UNITED STATES TARIFFS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. George H. Hees (Broadview): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Yesterday I asked him if the government had lodged a protest with the United States government about the possible restrictions against imports into that country of lead and zinc. At that time he said he would take the question as notice and give an answer today.

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, when proposals of this kind were made previously in Washington, which would have increased the duty against Canadian imports of lead and zinc, official representations were made. Since then a new proposal to this end has been put forward. It is at present only a proposal, made in connection with the consideration of a congressional bill. However, since this proposal was advanced our views on the matter have once again been brought to the attention of the United States authorities and our position has been restated and, I hope, reinforced.

**OIL—INQUIRY AS TO ACTION ON UNITED STATES
RESTRICTIONS**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. George A. Drew (Leader of the Opposition): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. Has the minister yet received any communication in regard to the request for the release of the reply of the government of the United States to the representations made by the