

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

the question immediately. I am having my officials check the situation. I would like to answer the whole of the hon. member's question, not only by telling the House what has been distributed to date, but also what recommendations will be made in view of the new situation we face now with the collapse of the East Pakistan army and the recognition by India of the state of Bangla Desh.

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**NATIONAL DEFENCE****ALLEGED BAN ON USE OF NEWS MATERIAL FROM PUBLIC SERVICE ALLIANCE BY EDITORS AT FORCES BASES**

**Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Acting Minister of National Defence. It has to do with a directive issued recently to news editors on Canadian Forces Bases across Canada banning the use of news material from the Public Service Alliance. Can the acting minister tell us why a form of censure has been imposed upon the receipt and utilization of such news material at this time?

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Acting Minister of National Defence):** I am sorry. This question is not answered in the minister's briefing book I was given a few minutes ago. I will check and answer the question tomorrow.

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**CONSUMER AFFAIRS****UNSOLICITED DISTRIBUTION OF CREDIT CARDS—POSSIBLE LEGISLATIVE ACTION**

**Mr. Max Saltsman (Waterloo):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Has the minister's attention been drawn to the extensive distribution of unsolicited credit cards by the Canadian Tire Corporation, charging 24 per cent interest, and does he intend to take any legislative action against the sending out of unsolicited credit cards?

• (3:10 p.m.)

**Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, no, it has not. If the hon. member will send me the credit card I would be happy to take a look at it. There is no federal law at the moment against the use of unsolicited credit cards, although several provinces have acted in this area.

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[Translation]

**FINANCE****SUGGESTED DEVALUATION OF CANADIAN DOLLAR TO PROMOTE SALE OF PRODUCTS IN UNITED STATES—MINISTER'S POSITION**

**Mr. Henry Latulippe (Compton):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the hon. Minister of Finance a question.

[Mr. Sharp.]

Could he tell the House whether he is prepared to comply with the request of the head of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce and of three provinces asking for a devaluation of the Canadian dollar so that our products may compete with American products on the United States market?

[English]

**Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance):** No, Mr. Speaker.

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**REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION****ARGENTIA TASK FORCE—REQUEST FOR REPORT**

**Mr. Walter C. Carter (St. John's West):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. On December 13 I asked the minister a question concerning the Argentia task force and whether it was still in existence. He offered to reply later. Is he now in a position to answer my question?

[Translation]

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, the task force is going to make another report. Because of certain circumstances in the province of Newfoundland it has not been possible to have a meeting until the last few days. As soon as I receive the report I will be able to inform my hon. friend of the contents.

[English]

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Vegreville.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the minister in charge of the Wheat Board but I see he has left the House so I shall leave it until tomorrow.

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**VETERANS AFFAIRS****REQUEST FOR REVIEW OF REGULATIONS AFFECTING PAYMENTS TO VETERANS IN GREAT BRITAIN**

**Mr. W. C. Scott (Victoria-Haliburton):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Veterans Affairs. It deals with a newspaper report that several hundred Canadian war veterans living in Great Britain are suffering undue hardship because of regulations governing the payment of war veterans allowances. Would the minister say whether or not his department is prepared to review the existing regulations to determine whether some veterans are being wrongfully denied pensions or allowances under the act?

**Hon. Jean-Eudes Dubé (Minister of Veterans Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, no veteran is wrongfully denied his pension. A veteran's pension follows him wherever he goes in the world. However, with reference to war veterans allowances, which are a very special social measure, it is very difficult to administer them in other countries. This is why there is a qualification of at least one year's residence in Canada. The qualification was established by Parlia-