

*Inquiries of the Ministry***VETERANS AFFAIRS****RESPONSE TO REPRESENTATIONS ON BEHALF OF  
FORMER PRISONERS OF WAR**

**Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Veterans Affairs. Has he had an opportunity yet since he has taken over the portfolio to examine the briefs or propositions put forward on behalf of the prisoners of war who have made various representations to his predecessors? Would he and his officials look at their position with a more enlightened approach so that we can get some action in regard to these claims?

**Hon. Arthur Laing (Minister of Veterans Affairs):** The answer is yes, and in addition I have had certain additional representations from a number of groups. I hope to be able to deal with them with the same degree of enlightenment as my predecessor.

**Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West):** I was hoping that the minister would not give us that answer because in the past these claims have had a very dim reception.

**Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe):** My question is for the Minister of Veterans Affairs. In view of the fact that the minister is willing to co-operate, would he allow the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs to meet with the National Prisoners of War Association?

**Mr. Laing:** I think that I would be agreeable to that.

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• (1140)

**UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE****CONSIDERATION BY COMMITTEE OF SEVERANCE PAY IN  
RELATION TO CLAIMS**

**Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant):** Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. In view of the fact the Unemployment Insurance Act is not a plan designed to serve the interests of the public treasury to the detriment of claimants, and in view of the fact that in some cases severance pay has been granted in lieu of pension benefits when a plant shuts down, can the parliamentary secretary give the House some indication that the entire matter of severance pay will be referred to the Standing Committee on Labour, Manpower and Immigration?

**Mr. Ray Perrault (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Manpower and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, the question of severance pay is under active study by the minister at the present time. When we speak about the public interest, let us remember that in January alone \$130 million in purchasing power was poured into the spending stream by the U.I.C.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Hon. members will have noticed that there are only a few minutes left before the end of the question period. We must move on to other

questions. Questions should not be argumentative and replies should not be argumentative if we want to make any headway.

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**SHIPPING****INVESTIGATION INTO SINKING OF "GULF GULL"—  
OPERATION OF NAVIGATIONAL AIDS**

**Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. Will the minister confirm that an investigation has been initiated into the disaster that befell the fishing craft *Gulf Gull* which sank with the tragic loss of six lives? In view of the fact there is some question whether navigational aids were in effect at that time, could he also assure the House that navigational aids are in operation at the present time in order to prevent a recurrence of such a disaster?

**Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, on the first part of the question, an investigation has been under way since immediately following this unfortunate and tragic incident. On the second point, I would not normally say anything of this sort except that it has been said already by the captain of the vessel, that in fact the existence or non-existence of navigational aids did not have a bearing on the unfortunate wrecking of the vessel. As to the current state of these navigational aids, I cannot give a specific answer at the moment but that would normally be published to the shipping trade. I will be glad to try to find out the information for the hon. member.

**SUGGESTED WIDER DISPERSAL OF SEARCH AND RESCUE  
AIRCRAFT ON ATLANTIC COAST**

**Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East):** I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I wonder whether the Minister of Transport is now prepared to recommend to his colleague, the Minister of National Defence, in accordance with the recommendations of the commission of investigation into the sinking of the *Patrick Morris*, the wider dispersal on the Atlantic coast of search and rescue aircraft? I am thinking particularly of the east coast of Newfoundland which, in most instances, is 500 miles away from the nearest search and rescue aircraft.

**Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport):** Yes, Mr. Speaker. I have provided the Minister of National Defence with a copy of the report of Judge Soper and we will be having discussions on that particular recommendation.

**Mr. McGrath:** A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.