

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): Is the minister now in a position to answer the question I asked a few minutes ago?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I understand that the question was ruled out of order.

[*Later:*]

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of National Defence. Could the minister indicate what redress is open to radio navigators in the light of the violation of the principle of equality, as a result of the recently announced pay differential policy.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This question is out of order. The hon. member is asking what redress is open. He is asking for an expression of opinion.

Mr. David MacDonald (Prince): Mr. Speaker, may I address a supplementary question to the Minister of National Defence. Could the minister say whether any indication has been given to air crew other than pilots that their pay situation will be reviewed in a manner that will prove favourable to their interests?

Mr. Hellyer: Not beyond the cyclical pay review. I think it also has been indicated, as I indicated yesterday in my answer to a question by the hon. member for Digby-Annapolis-Kings (Mr. Nowlan), on the question of whether the air crew allowance would subsequently be included as part of the pay for pension purposes, that this matter would be studied and a decision taken at the time the cyclical review is announced.

Mr. Nowlan: Mr. Speaker, may I ask a supplementary question. What was the purpose of the meeting in Ottawa today with the officers from Summerside, Halifax and Greenwood if it was not to discuss the unrest?

Mr. Speaker: Order. This question cannot be asked. The hon. member is asking a question which suggests the answer; it is a leading question.

Mr. Hellyer: The answer he gave himself was incorrect. Perhaps I can set him straight—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. E. Nasserden (Rosthern): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Minister of National Defence a supplementary question. Would the minister give supplementary consideration or review to the position of navigators, along the same lines that he has in respect of the pilots?

[*Mr. Hellyer:*]

Mr. Hellyer: That question was answered yesterday. I said it would be reviewed along with the cyclical pay review. In answer to my hon. friend opposite I can say—

Some hon. Members: No, no.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Gordon Churchill (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Defence. Will the minister make a statement in the house outlining his new policy in respect of the air force, and also outline what steps he is taking to improve morale in the three services?

Mr. Hellyer: Mr. Speaker, I do not think that is necessary, but when the national defence committee meets after the Easter recess I will be pleased to make a statement. I can say to my hon. friend, if he needs the reassurance, that we are making outstanding progress in our reorganization in the armed forces.

WINTER WORKS**EDMONTON—REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF DEADLINE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. William Skoreyko (Edmonton East): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Labour. Has the minister received a representation from Edmonton requesting a two week extension of the winter works deadline date of April 15? If so, what consideration is the minister giving this request?

Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, if my memory serves me right such a request did come in some time ago. I have received a few, but not many from other parts of Canada. The Edmonton request has been referred to the officials for study.

I might say that I would be less than frank, in view of the second question, were I to hold out much encouragement to the hon. member for an extension in the Edmonton area. It will be recalled that situations similar to the one that occurred in Edmonton this year occurred in Quebec and in other parts of Canada in the winter of 1963-64, and in the lower mainland of British Columbia where a 29 day snow storm occurred in the winter of 1964-65.

Last fall the government announced its intention to extend the date to April 15. This was done at the time the program was announced last fall. It is doubtful that there will be any further extension beyond April 15.