

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Mr. Drury:** Mr. Speaker, consideration has been given, as promised, to the most recent report of the Atlantic Provinces Economic Council; and, as I say, the report has disclosed no new considerations. Consequently no changes in the program are contemplated.

**Mr. Bell (Saint John-Albert):** In other words, Mr. Speaker, the minister's answer now is no, whereas as reported at page 7468 he said yes.

**Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Royal):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Does not the fact that net migration from the Atlantic provinces reached a total of 103,000 in five years indicate there is new evidence?

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

**SOCIAL SECURITY****REPORTED STATEMENT BY JUSTICE MINISTER AS TO CHANGED BASIS**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Prime Minister. May I ask the Prime Minister whether the Minister of Justice has been stating government policy in his call for future welfare plans to be put on a needs test basis rather than on a basis of universality?

**Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I will have to consult with the minister to see whether in fact he made any such statement.

**TRANSPORT****PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND CAUSEWAY—REQUEST FOR CONSULTATION BEFORE CHANGES MADE**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. David MacDonald (Prince):** Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Public Works. Two days ago the minister indicated that when the report of Colonel Churchill on the Northumberland causeway is completed the government will go ahead with its design and implement the program. Would the minister assure the members of this house that the government and officials of Prince Edward Island will be consulted before any definite decisions are made or any changes are made to the original causeway proposal?

**Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Minister of Public Works):** Mr. Speaker, this is a pretty hypothetical question. I am not accepting the premise of the hon. member in which he

[Mr. Bell (Saint John-Albert).]

sought to summarize what I said on the subject earlier. If he would care to rephrase the latter part of his question I would be glad to answer.

**Mr. MacDonald (Prince):** Mr. Speaker, it is obvious that the minister feels somewhat sensitive about this matter. However, I am not trying to play games, so I will quickly rephrase what I said. I am simply asking whether the government of Prince Edward Island will be consulted after Colonel Churchill makes his report.

**Mr. McIlraith:** Mr. Speaker, we have tried to keep the government of Prince Edward Island fully informed as to what we are doing in this matter, and to work in very close co-operation with them. I do not think it would be proper to give an undertaking that they will be consulted before we take a decision as to the detail of the design.

[Later:]

**Mr. MacDonald (Prince):** I have a question for the Prime Minister arising out of the answer given me by the Minister of Public Works. In the light of the statement that there might not necessarily be consultation in connection with the resumption of work on the causeway project, and in the light of the fact that changes might substantially affect the economy of Prince Edward Island, would the right hon. gentleman assure members of this house that the government of Prince Edward Island will be consulted before changes are implemented?

**Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister):** I should like to confirm what the minister said in this regard, Mr. Speaker.

**THE MINISTRY****ACCEPTANCE OF FREE TRANSPORTATION BY LEADERSHIP CANDIDATES**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood):** Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the Prime Minister a question. Has the Prime Minister given consideration to advising those of his ministers who are running for the leadership of the Liberal party of the dangers and impropriety of accepting free transportation from those groups who have dealings with the government?

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