

How would the government act, faced with such a report by the ECC?

**Mr. Chrétien:** Mr. Speaker, we are not planning to have a roll-back provision in any legislation. We are hoping people will understand the consequences of being under controls. We are removing controls. The Economic Council of Canada will look at price and wage developments and make comments. If it sees a difficult situation, perhaps we can have a specific inquiry. We are going to back in the market-place. We hope the public will react as we have some indication they will; they are very responsible.

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● (1432)

### NATIONAL DEFENCE

#### REASON DEPARTMENT DOES NOT EMPLOY WOMEN PILOTS

**Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Defence. As Your Honour mentioned, today is the anniversary of the Commonwealth. Today is also the sixty-fifth anniversary of the first woman obtaining a pilot's licence in Canada. Eileen Vollick received her pilot's licence on this date in 1913, flying a Curtis Jenny biplane. In view of the fact that women have been licensed as pilots for the past 65 years in Canada, can the minister explain why it is still the policy of the Department of National Defence not to have any women pilots in National Defence, in view of their obvious acceptance by the Ministry of Transport for over 50 years?

**Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, this is a subject that is constantly under review.

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

**Mr. Danson:** The difficulty really resolves itself in relation to women serving in combat, which is something, quite frankly, we have not come to grips with: no western nation really has. Our pilots are versatile and must perform many roles. It does create a problem—one which we are examining—in so far as women serving in combat is concerned. We have not yet made a decision as to what is an appropriate role, after the experience of other nations which have tried that and found it quite demoralizing, not because women cannot stand it but because men in combat with them emotionally are not able to accept it.

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

**Mr. MacDonald (Egmont):** Mr. Speaker, this must establish a new record of constant review, having gone on for 65 years. Combat is only one of the areas where women pilots in other countries have performed with remarkable effectiveness and skill. What steps is the department actually taking to resolve this very serious anomaly in its structures? In view of the constant review that has been going on for over half a century,

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can the minister indicate when the review will be brought to a satisfactory conclusion?

**Mr. Danson:** Mr. Speaker, the constant review has resulted in concrete results in the armed forces, where women are increasingly effective in the roles in which they are serving. Just this past week I announced the addition of women to the advisory council to the Canadian military colleges. This matter has received active consideration. I have spent a great deal of time with my officials and senior commanders in all areas, and women are increasing their role in the Canadian armed forces. We have not made the decision to put them in roles where they either have to be in combat or rotate with those in combat, due to the manning ratios we have to live with.

**Mr. MacDonald (Egmont):** In view of the concern expressed by a number of young women who in recent years have applied for admission to the armed forces in a variety of skills and tasks, is the minister prepared to table in this House within the next few weeks a statement as to the number of trades and skills that are still prohibited from the interests of women? Will he also give some indication, in terms of the career and officer training program with respect to military colleges, in view of the comment he just made, of how soon there may be a satisfactory resolution of the very real discrimination that exists with respect to complete training facilities for women in Canada's armed forces?

**Mr. Danson:** Mr. Speaker, there certainly is no secret in this respect and there is no difficulty in tabling a document. However, it would be much more fruitful for the hon. member to come to the Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence tomorrow evening, where I will be delighted to answer those questions.

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### POST OFFICE

#### TESTING OF LEGALITY OF RATE INCREASES

**Mr. Stan Darling (Parry Sound-Muskoka):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Postmaster General. The Canadian Periodical Publishers Association will ask the Supreme Court of Ontario this week to declare current postal rates for letters and magazines invalid. Is the Postmaster General aware of this, and the fact that it will throw considerable doubt on the federal government's right to collect the increase on first- and second-class postage rates scheduled for April 1?

[Translation]

**Hon. J. Gilles Lamontagne (Postmaster General):** Mr. Speaker, I suggest I replied last Friday to this question about the legality of the postal rate increases. I am aware that Mr. Rosenberg and his corporation is contesting their legality, and that there is a lot of conflicting opinion among counsels involved, even his own. The purpose is also to better balance the costs of the Post Office operation between Canadian