

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

measure to provide for a contributory pension plan be proceeded with in this session, or will he wait until he has final approval from the province of Ontario before making further progress with the matter?

[Text]

[Later:]

**Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the procedure with regard to this matter will be determined by developments and decisions that will be taken by the provinces concerned, including the province of Ontario. I cannot make any further statement at this time on the matter.

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, can the Prime Minister say whether the government will ask the house today to proceed with the other legislation raising old age pensions by \$10 a month?

**Mr. Pearson:** We shall get to that in a few minutes.

**Mr. Heward Grafftey (Brome-Missisquoi):** I have a supplementary question for the Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker. Since the Minister of National Health and Welfare visualizes, as a possible result of a large state controlled pension fund such as that envisaged by Mr. Lesage of Quebec, a degree of government control tantamount to that under national socialism in Germany, will the Prime Minister inform the house whether her statement in this regard represents the official government view?

**Mr. Pearson:** The government's view will be made known in due course, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** That is a very poor answer.

[Later:]

[Translation]

**Mr. L. J. Pigeon (Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. Can he tell the house whether the Minister of National Health and Welfare was speaking on behalf of the government when she stated, as reported by the *Globe and Mail*, that the Quebec government's pension plan is along nazi lines.

[Text]

**Mr. Pearson:** I have no knowledge that the minister made any such statement; therefore the question cannot be the subject of a reply.

[Translation]

**Mr. Pigeon:** I wish to put a supplementary question. Does the Prime Minister intend to advise the Minister of Justice to dispatch a R.C.M.P. squad in the province of Quebec to check the rise of nazism?

**Hon. Michael Starr (Ontario):** I wish to direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare having to do with the Canada pension plan. I should like to know whether any effort is being made by herself, or by the government, or both, to try to bring Mr. Lesage into the plan in order that it may be truly a Canadian pension plan. I am sure the hon. lady would agree that the participation of Quebec in this plan is just as important as the participation of Ontario.

**Hon. Judy V. LaMarsh (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** I think the hon. member knows that two provinces, Ontario and Quebec, have been asked to nominate members to attend technical committees to discuss this question of pensions.

#### ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE

PENHOLD, ALBERTA—USE AS JET TRAINING BASE

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of National Defence. During the past few weeks an apparent reversal of policy has been reported in the press regarding the extension of the R.C.A.F. base at Penhold into a jet aircraft training base. Because this is causing a good deal of concern and confusion throughout central Alberta I would ask the minister whether it is correct that his department does not intend to carry through with plans which are completed even to the extent of having received tenders for construction work and, if not, what are his reasons for reversing the decision of his department?

**Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, it is true that the Royal Canadian Air Force had planned to use the R.C.A.F. station Penhold for jet training. In order to accomplish this there were certain things that had to be undertaken. These included the acquisition of additional land, the extension of the runways and the determination of whether there was sufficient available air space to make jet training feasible. Some additional land was in the process of being acquired and tenders were called for the extension of the runways, but in the course of the negotiations with the Department of Transport with respect to the use of available air space it became obvious that sufficient air space could not be made available to make jet training at Penhold feasible. It was this fact that determined beyond peradventure