

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Perhaps the hon. member might keep the rest of the information for the supplementary questions which apparently are going to be asked.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): In light of the fact that these very changes that are going into effect on April 1 will in effect mean in some places such as Summerside, P.E.I., that a corporal off base will be paying more rent than an officer commanding on base, I wonder whether or not there can be an investigation into the obvious injustices that will occur under this new system and whether consultations directly with the people involved will be held as there is very great concern about these changes?

Mr. Comtois: Mr. Speaker, for married quarter occupants of the rank of sergeant and below, the increase will not exceed \$15 per month. As for others, they will be increased accordingly.

RENT INCREASES FOR MARRIED QUARTERS—
SUGGESTED DELAY UNTIL PARITY WITH PUBLIC
SERVICE ACHIEVED

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): I will have to ask you to bear with me, Mr. Speaker. I have two supplementary questions. The first one I want to direct to the President of the Treasury Board. Inasmuch as this new policy is tied directly to the determination by the government to bring about parity between the Canadian armed forces and the public service of Canada, and as parity will not be achieved for at least another full 12 months or more, would the government consider a delay in the implementation of this new rental policy until such time as parity is in fact achieved?

Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, it is an interesting suggestion. I think, however, that the hon. member is quite correct that the eradication of inequalities is done in two stages and will not be completed until next year. The hon. gentleman may have noticed that the equivalencies in relation to housing are modified or limited; they are not absolute in their application.

Mr. Forrestall: I gather from the minister's reply that he will not consider a delay for a year. I wonder whether he would initiate discussions within the cabinet with respect to a system which would permit Canadian forces personnel who are compelled to a major degree to live in rented quarters during their careers to build an equity, a method through which a portion of their rent could be set aside against their retirement?

Mr. Drury: This is an interesting suggestion. I will certainly be glad to see it explored.

Mr. Baldwin: We give you lots of them.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Saskatoon-Biggar.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: I apologize to the hon. member for Saskatoon-Biggar. He will have a chance to ask his question soon.

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): I wonder if the parliamentary secretary could respond to the second question regarding whether there will be consultations with the personnel, instead of reading an answer.

Mr. Comtois: I would like to repeat what I said before, namely, that charges for approximately 8,200 married quarters will be reduced.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think the hon. member for Egmont might assume that the question has been noted.

Mr. Forrestall: Ten o'clock, Mr. Speaker.

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TRANSPORT

POSSIBLE SUBSIDIES TO RAILWAYS TO ACQUIRE
ADDITIONAL ROLLING STOCK TO MOVE GRAIN

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Transport. In view of the recent statement of the Canadian Pacific Railway that they would require subsidies from the government in order to acquire the necessary rolling stock and motive power to move grain, have they made any such request or representations to the government through the Department of Transport or other avenues?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the matter is of course under discussion and has been for some months with both railways. My recollection is that within the last two or three days there has been a letter, I believe, from the vice-president of the Canadian Pacific Railway on this matter. I have asked the officials to give me their opinion on it. On the question of the CNR's participation, I have had a lengthy document from them on the best way in which to provide additional cars and discussed the matter in person with the president yesterday with a view to meeting with him again next week.

• (1140)

Mr. Gleave: Have there been consultations and discussions between the Minister of Transport and the minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board on some mutual approach to solve this very serious problem?

Mr. Jamieson: Yes, Mr. Speaker. The consultations to which I referred have in all cases involved either the minister responsible for the Wheat Board or officials and others who report to him.

PROGRESS OF RAILWAYS IN EXPEDITING MOVEMENT OF
GRAIN TO VANCOUVER

Mr. Jack Murta (Lisgar): Mr. Speaker, as a supplementary question I would like to ask the Minister of Transport whether he can report to the House today on what progress the railways have made in the last week in the movement of prairie grain to the port of Vancouver in terms of the specific number of carloads per day being unloaded at Vancouver.