

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Mr. Hellyer:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, I am aware of it. It is a principle that had to be abandoned because it is no longer viable.

**Mr. Churchill:** Your program has broken down.

**Mr. Hellyer:** It would not help in the future, in any event. There have been certain exceptions in the past. We pay more to doctors and dentists than we do to others holding the same rank. This is because they can command larger remuneration in the civilian economy. The same thing is true of pilots. In making the decision to increase the pilots' pay at this time we reluctantly but knowingly abandoned the principle of equal pay for equal rank because in the technological age in which we live we realize that we have to do this.

**Mr. G. L. Chatterton (Esquimalt-Saanich):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister say whether this action is intended to atone for the short-sighted action in letting 500 pilots go?

**Mr. Nowlan:** A supplementary question—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I suggest to hon. members that a number of supplementary and further supplementary questions have been asked. The hon. member for Digby-Annapolis-Kings.

**Mr. Nowlan:** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that there are many ramifications in this change of policy, but this is the last supplementary question I shall ask at this time. Is any consideration being given by the minister to incorporating into their pensions the flying allowance paid to airmen who have not received the basic pay increase, so that despite all the other problems the flying crew will receive pension benefits which include the flying allowance?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. This is becoming in the nature of a debate and I suggest that no further supplementary questions should be allowed at this time.

**Mr. Hellyer:** Could I answer that question, Mr. Speaker?

**Some hon. Members:** No.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

[Later:]

**Mr. Nowlan:** A further question concerning our air force. Since there has been a change in basic pay policy, is the minister considering any change in flying allowances for air crew?

[Mr. Nowlan.]

**Mr. Hellyer:** There have been considerable changes in policy. I could send the hon. member a copy of the press release which would give him a summation of the changes which have taken place. Some of the other questions he has raised are being considered throughout the summer months in conjunction with the cyclical pay review.

**TRANSPORT**

**PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND CAUSEWAY—  
APPLICATION OF STRETCH-OUT  
POLICY**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Queens):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question which I think should be directed to the Minister of Finance, or possibly the Minister of Public Works. Can the minister say whether, in the light of the unanimous resolution of the Prince Edward Island legislature, the government has decided to remove the Northumberland causeway from the list of public works projects which the Minister of Finance announced would be deferred, and whether in fact they will move toward acceleration of this important development?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I was very clear in my statement that the Northumberland causeway was being rescheduled, not deferred.

**Mr. David MacDonald (Prince):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, directed to the Prime Minister. On Thursday of last week the Prime Minister informed the house that he had received word on this matter from the leader of the opposition in Prince Edward Island. I wonder whether he has also been contacted by the leader of the opposition in New Brunswick on this matter?

**Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister):** No, Mr. Speaker, but I received the resolution in question from the premier of Prince Edward Island about an hour ago.

[Later:]

**Mr. Macquarrie:** I should like to ask the Minister of Public Works, in the light of the 10 per cent reduction in expenditure and the minimization of labour useage in the summer, by what magical formula he can predict that the Northumberland causeway will be completed in time.

**Mr. McIlraith:** Yes, Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. That question is argumentative.