

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

government policy when he said on Wednesday that the railway part of the Northumberland crossing may have to be dropped, or the whole project may be shelved?

**Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Minister of Public Works):** Mr. Speaker, no spokesman from my department made any such statement.

**Mr. MacLean (Queens):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister of Public Works assure the house that the government has not changed its commitment to proceed as rapidly as is reasonable with the construction of this project?

**Mr. McIlraith:** Yes, Mr. Speaker. Much concern has been shown by hon. members representing areas near the Northumberland crossing, as well as by other persons, because of some speculative newspaper stories that have appeared during the last two days. Perhaps I can best answer the hon. member's question by saying that tenders for phase I of the crossing were opened on March 30. These are complex, and require extensive analysis and study. This analysis and study, which is normal, is now being made by the engineers and is not yet complete. Decisions cannot be made or anticipated prior to its completion. It may well be that when it is complete some adjustments or modifications may prove desirable. This cannot be anticipated at this time. Notwithstanding the possibility that some adjustments or modifications may be required, the government has every intention of proceeding with the construction of the crossing.

**Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Queens):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister assure the house that these analyses will not result in the delay of the project's completion date?

**Mr. McIlraith:** The analyses have not been completed, and until I see them I cannot give information other than that just given. It would be wrong to give speculative answers, I think, to speculative questions.

**Mr. T. S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I ask the Minister of Public Works whether he will not discuss with his colleague the Secretary of State the incredible gaff made when C.B.C. television news described this causeway project as a reconsideration of the Canso causeway.

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

[Later:]

**Mr. Melvin McQuaid (Kings):** Mr. Speaker, my question is supplementary to that asked of the Minister of Public Works regarding the Northumberland strait causeway. There seems to be a little too much smoke around this issue for there not to be some fire. I direct my question to the Prime Minister. On behalf of the government will he assure the people of Prince Edward Island that contract bids exceeding the cost contemplated by the government will not result in the deferment or abandonment of this project?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The hon. member is simply repeating or restating a question which was asked previously.

### VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL TRAINING

#### PROPOSED CHANGE WITH RESPECT TO LIVING ALLOWANCES

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam):** In the absence of the Minister of Manpower and Immigration may I direct a question to the Prime Minister. It has to do with the new regulation, effective as of April 1, which will deny living allowances to persons, without dependants, who have not been continuously employed for at least three years. As this new regulation will have the effect of refusing living allowances to young people under 20 years of age, childless wives, widows, and new immigrants, I ask the Prime Minister whether protests about these regulations have been received and whether the government is considering altering them.

**Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I have not myself, to my knowledge, received any such protest. Whether the minister has I do not know, but I shall make inquiries. I ought to add that this matter was discussed carefully before action was taken. I shall be glad, however, to bring the hon. gentleman's question to the minister's attention and to discuss it with him.

**Mr. Douglas:** A supplementary question. Could the Prime Minister tell the house under what authority this regulation was enacted, since the act itself has not been passed by the house?

**Mr. Speaker:** I doubt whether this question is in order.