

## HEALTH AND WELFARE

MEDICARE—REPORTED DECISION TO  
PROCEED NEXT YEAR

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the right hon. Prime Minister. Press reports indicate that the cabinet has made a decision to go ahead with medicare next year regardless of how many provinces have accepted the federal government's offer. I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether the cabinet has made a decision to that effect, and is the Prime Minister able to announce it at this time?

**Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I cannot at this time make an announcement of policy on this matter, nor give an answer in respect of the aspect referred to by my hon. friend, but I hope to be able to do so very shortly.

## UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

## REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION INTO REPORTS

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. William Dean Howe (Hamilton South):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question I should like to direct to the Minister of Transport. In view of the increased sightings of unidentified flying objects which are now getting past the point of being funny—a young citizen in my riding is nursing a burn on his hand after touching the antenna of one of these objects, and there are dozens of other reports in southern Ontario—can the minister say whether his department is doing anything about investigating these reports; and would he be prepared to set up a special committee for this purpose in order to satisfy public curiosity?

**Mr. Fairweather:** Ralph Cowan should be the chairman.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. In spite of the preamble to the question, I suggest it should be placed on the order paper.

## NATIONAL DEFENCE

## NEW PAY SCALE FOR AIR FORCE PILOTS

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. D. S. Harkness (Calgary North):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

Minister of National Defence. Has the government put into effect a new pay scale which provides increases of from \$300 to \$3,000 for defence department aircraft pilots?

**Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of National Defence):** Yes, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Harkness:** I have a supplementary question. Is the minister aware that this is causing very unfavourable reaction among other flying personnel and servicemen generally, who believe it will decrease the effectiveness of the forces and further greatly decrease morale, thus accelerating the decline in the strength of the forces?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I do not believe the question as posed can be considered at this time.

**Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Digby-Annapolis-Kings):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. In view of the substantial pay increases for pilots announced Friday last, is the minister considering similar increases for air crew navigators, radio operators and technical officers who will receive nothing extra according to that announcement?

**Mr. Hellyer:** No, Mr. Speaker. The fact is that the demand for skilled pilots in the civilian economy has so outstripped the demand for other trades that in order to compete and keep in the armed forces the number of skilled pilots we require we have to bring their emoluments closer in line with those of the civilian industry. Other categories referred to by my hon. friend will be considered in the cyclical pay increases which will come into effect on October 1.

**Hon. E. D. Fulton (Kamloops):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. May I ask the minister whether he really expects that an increase in pay of \$3 million accompanied by a decrease of \$8 million will in fact keep pilots in the armed forces happy, or should we characterize this as one of the neatest tricks of the week?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member is asking an argumentative question.

**Mr. Nowlan:** Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the Minister of National Defence. Is the minister aware of the violent reaction to the abandonment of the principle of equal pay for equal rank, and is anything being done to alleviate this abandonment of a long standing principle?