

Inquiries of the Ministry

Have the officers and men of the Canadian forces who are working here in the capital been ordered not to appear at work in uniform on certain specified days of the week? If this is so, why have such orders been issued?

Mr. Speaker: The question should be placed on the order paper.

VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL TRAINING**PAYMENT OF SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCES DURING HOLIDAY SEASON**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): I have a question for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. In view of the impending loss of pay—their only source of income—by students in vocational and adult educational centres due to the closing down of classes for two weeks during the Christmas season, can the minister advise whether anything is being done to remedy this situation?

Mr. Speaker: Order. It seems to me this question was asked some time ago and replied to at that time.

Mr. Marshall: In view of the lateness of the season could we not be given an answer if the minister is willing to make one?

Mr. Speaker: My impression is that this question has already been asked and answered a couple of times, but I would have no objection to the minister replying if he wishes to do so.

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have tried in negotiations with the provinces to provide for uninterrupted training during the holiday period. Under the law we are permitted to provide training allowances on statutory holidays.

In the great majority of cases we have succeeded in providing this uninterrupted training across Canada but we are still negotiating with the province of Newfoundland in the hope that we can provide classroom instruction during this period, thereby making it possible to pay allowances to trainees.

Mr. Marshall: Since it is so late in December, would the minister contact his colleague the Minister of Defence Production, who is the minister from Newfoundland, to ask the Newfoundland government to see whether something can be done quickly; because there are only 11 days left?

[Mr. Rose.]

Mr. MacEachen: We have been in touch with officials of the government of Newfoundland, and we shall continue our efforts.

INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre): I would direct this question to the Prime Minister. In view of the fact that the right hon. gentleman has been considering reform of the Senate, will he now take into consideration the appointment of Mr. Ernest Manning, the former premier of Alberta?

Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I have heard the representation, Mr. Speaker.

PUBLIC SERVICE**DISMISSAL OF COMMISSIONAIRES FOR LANGUAGE REASONS**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): I should like to direct a question to the Secretary of State whose name, I believe, is on the roster for today. Perhaps in his absence the parliamentary secretary can answer it, since notice was given by a number of hon. members on Friday last, I think. I should like to ask whether the Secretary of State has a report to make to the house today regarding the displacement of members of the Canadian Corps of Commissionaires in various security positions in government buildings.

Mr. Robert Stanbury (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I am advised by the museum corporation that a policy has been implemented requiring commissionaires who come into contact with the public visiting museums to be to a large degree bilingual, and that the staff in the Ottawa area from which these commissionaires can be drawn is some 40 per cent bilingual. I am advised, however, that there have been no dismissals from the corps in connection with the implementation of any such policy, although perhaps there might be some transfers of personnel necessary to bring about this change.

Meetings have been held by the National Gallery with representatives of the company which provides the protective services there in an effort to implement a similar policy for the National Gallery. I understand it has been indicated that there should be no difficulty in implementing such a policy without dismissals of any employees.