

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

REFERENCE OF DEPARTMENTAL REPORT TO
STANDING COMMITTEE

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Minister of Public Works) moved:

That the report of the Department of External Affairs tabled on January 28, 1966, be referred to the standing committee on external affairs.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Starr: In view of the fact that item 132 covers an amendment to a bill now before the house which changes only the number of judges and junior judges, and since it is in the form of a resolution, we would be prepared to pass that also.

Mr. McIlraith: Perhaps we could call item 132, then.

JUDGES ACT

FURTHER AMENDMENT RESPECTING BRITISH
COLUMBIA

Hon. L. T. Pennell (for the Minister of Justice) moved that the house go into committee to consider the following resolution:

That it is expedient to amend the proposed measure to amend the Judges Act, Bill C-267, now before the house by substituting the words "eighteen judges and junior judges of the County Courts" for the words "seventeen judges and junior judges of the County Courts" in lines 7 and 8 of page 5 of the said bill, under the heading "British Columbia".

Motion agreed to and the house went into committee, Mr. Rinfret in the chair.

Resolution reported and concurred in.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Rinfret): Is it agreed that this resolution be referred to the Committee of the Whole to be appointed to consider Bill C-267, An Act to amend the Judges Act?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. McIlraith: Mr. Speaker, tomorrow we propose submitting to the house for consideration item 83 on today's order paper, item 100, item 116, item 126, item 127, second reading of the bill to amend the Judges Act, item 130 and item 122. That is the list of the business indicated last night to be considered today, plus the addition of item 122.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT
MOTION

A motion to adjourn the house under provisional standing order 39A deemed to have been moved.

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

[Translation]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS—REQUEST FOR BILINGUAL
STAFF IN EMBASSIES ABROAD

Mr. Maurice Allard (Sherbrooke): Mr. Speaker, last Wednesday I put in this house the following question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs:

I should like to put a question to the hon. Secretary of State for External Affairs. At the same time, I should like to congratulate him on his excellent appearance on the television show called "Sel de la semaine" last night, during which he seemed to say that he never refused a well-presented request. Here, then, is my question:

In view of the grievances and suggestions made by Mr. Antonio Barrette, former Canadian ambassador to Greece, would the hon. minister or the government immediately take the necessary steps to ensure that the personnel in Canadian embassies is bilingual?

I am pleased to have the opportunity to elaborate on the problem I referred to at the time.

It often happens that Canadians travelling abroad note that the staff in our embassies is composed exclusively of English speaking persons who cannot speak French, which is the other official language of our country.

I wish to point out, among other protests in this regard, the statements made recently by Mr. Antonio Barrette, former Canadian ambassador to Greece. Mr. Barrette urged the federal government to place more emphasis, in our embassies, on the bilingual and bicultural character of Canada. Some of my constituents in the riding of Sherbrooke which I represent in this house told me of similar anomalies, noted during trips abroad. I feel, Mr. Speaker, that the hon. Secretary of State for External Affairs should take immediate steps to provide all Canadian embassies with bilingual personnel, in order that ambassadors and Canadian employees dealing with citizens of other countries may speak English and French reasonably well, in addition to other languages they may cultivate.

Our bilingual and bicultural character must be displayed outside as well as inside our country. This Canadian characteristic is a source of influence and prestige on the international level, and it will likely greatly improve our relations with French speaking countries.

I understand that, at the present time, the application of Canadian bilingualism gives rise to difficulties in some countries and with respect to certain employees. But despite past obstacles and carelessness, the federal government must spare no effort to encourage Canadian bilingualism in our embassies and