

and

Professional and special services, \$982,300.

For the time being, I shall be satisfied to ask this kind of questions only and to get some answers.

Mr. Stewart (Cochrane): Mr. Chairman, may I now put my question?

Mr. Matte: Yes.

● (4:20 p.m.)

[English]

Mr. Walker: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for Champlain was inquiring about Mr. Gagnon's salary. It is not on the basis of a salary. It is on the basis of a per diem, which is the same as all the other commissioners and, depending on the number of days, this makes up the total amount of salary. The commissioners on that commission are paid \$100 a day.

Mr. Orlikow: And they have worked longer than any other commission.

[Translation]

Mr. Stewart (Cochrane): According to the member for Champlain, the commission on bilingualism and biculturalism would be completely useless. I would like to ask him if he believes that the bill on official languages which will soon be brought forward in this house and which will give full rights to all Canadians is also useless. This is not what could be implied from his speech.

Mr. Matte: Mr. Chairman, when the bill mentioned by the hon. member is passed, I will have some comments to make. It is perhaps too soon to make up one's mind, but I would add this: just because an area is called bilingual we should not think that it becomes so.

For example, in my area, that of Saint-Casimir, in the constituency of Champlain—

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Richard): Order. I thought that the member for Champlain (Mr. Matte) had completed his reply. He did well, a while ago, in saying that the matter could be discussed some other time. However, it is not his responsibility to answer questions such as the one the member for Cochrane has just put, for we are not discussing a particular item, and the responsible minister is the President of the Treasury Board.

[English]

Item agreed to.

Supply—Privy Council

The following items were agreed to:

Privy Council Office—

Ministers without Portfolio—

5. Payment, notwithstanding anything in the Financial Administration Act or the Senate and House of Commons Act respecting the independence of Parliament, to each member of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada who is a Minister for whom no salary or allowance in addition to the allowances under section 33 and section 44 of the Senate and House of Commons Act is provided (the acceptance of which shall not render such member ineligible or disqualify him as a Member of the House of Commons) of a salary of \$7,500 per annum and pro rata for any period less than a year, \$27,000.

10. General Administration, \$3,117,300.

15. Expenses of the Royal Commissions listed in the Details of Estimates, \$2,105,000.

Mr. Thomson (Battleford-Kindersley): Mr. Chairman, I have a question or two with regard to the royal commission which is inquiring into the price of agricultural machinery. I notice an item of \$400,000 for its studies this year, and I would like to know when its report might be expected. Further, in view of the delay in receiving a report from the commission I would like to know whether the government is willing to take any interim action on the price of farm machinery? In view of the fact that the commission is going to spend at least \$900,000 I think the government should make a statement on what it intends to do in the interim before receiving the commission report. It has taken so long for this commission to do its work that its data will be irrelevant. The farm machine companies are complaining about commissions such as this, and farmers are unhappy with them because they hold hearings, but the government takes no action on their reports.

Mr. Walker: Mr. Chairman, because I am not a member of the government I cannot give the hon. member a reply as to any interim measures that the government may or may not be contemplating. This question should be addressed to the Minister of Agriculture. However, I can give a specific answer on the work of the commission itself. As the hon. member knows, the commission was appointed in 1966. Work on the preparation of the commission's report is well under way and is expected to be completed, including translation, in June, 1969. The commission will be expected to terminate its activities shortly after that date.

Mr. Orlikow: Can I get some information from the parliamentary secretary to the Prime Minister or from the President of the