Motion Respecting House Vote

BILINGUALISM AND BICULTURALISM

INQUIRY AS TO FURTHER REPORT OF ROYAL COMMISSION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Gilles Grégoire (Lapointe): Mr. Speaker, I have a further question to ask.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member is overtaxing the patience of the house as well as my own.

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Speaker, if there are other members who have questions to ask, they are free to do so, but I think that there is a 40-minute period allowed for the guestions. I should like to direct a question, which I think is urgent, to the right hon. Prime Minister.

Could the right hon. Prime Minister tell us whether it is true the Laurendeau-Dunton commission has refused to issue the second part of its report on bilingualism and biculturalism?

Mr. Speaker: I would suggest this question is not of an urgent nature and should be put on the order paper.

• (2:50 p.m.)

[English]

HOUSE OF COMMONS

MOTION RESPECTING HOUSE VOTE ON BILL C-193

The house resumed, from Monday, February 26, consideration of the motion of the Prime Minister:

That this house does not regard its vote on February 19th in connection with third reading of Bill C-193, which had carried in all previous stages, as a vote of non-confidence in the government.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Before calling on the hon, member for Cape Breton South may I thank the house for its forbearance and assistance to the Chair.

Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton South): Mr. Speaker, the house will understand how difficult it is for me to speak on this occasion. The actions of this government have caused an hon. member of this house who has given long, devoted and loyal service to his party to resign from that party. I am sure my colleagues agree that his association with our party has made him much beloved.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

[Mr. Speaker.]

Finance—will remain in their seats longer this afternoon than they remained yesterday afternoon. Yesterday, when there was too much heat in the kitchen, some of them scurried away. I refer particularly to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. I hope that more than two cabinet ministers will remain to hear what is being said.

It was unfortunate that the hon, member for Lapointe should raise the matter of two men being held in jail. Though this government could help them, they are being held in jail. But then this government should not be entirely condemned for its attitude; after all, its actions on the other side of the ledger tend to even the score. I am referring to a former Liberal member who was made a judge. He was tried, sentenced to two years in prison, and he has not served a day of that time up to the present. Despite his conviction this government continues to pay him his salary.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I hope the hon. member will be cautious in his remarks relating to the judiciary.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): Mr. Speaker, if I must remain cautious in my remarks about a man who has been-

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I ought to have added that the matter the hon, member has referred to is also before the courts.

An hon. Member: It is under appeal.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): I will not say any more except that there is a precedent in this house, with this matter already having been referred to.

I want to speak about the government and about the make-up of the cabinet in which we are asked to vote confidence. Last night I was reviewing the divisions in the Liberal party that have been apparent for a number of years, and I referred to members of cabinet. For the Prime Minister's benefit I shall repeat some of the things I said.

The Minister of Forestry and Rural Development (Mr. Sauvé) spoke in the west about the phasing out of the Sydney steel operation. At the same time in the House of Commons the Minister of Industry (Mr. Drury) was saying that it would be ridiculous for the government to make plans. Another example of division was when the Secretary of State (Miss LaMarsh) refused to sit next to the Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): I trust Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern that the defendants in this trial—and it is a Development (Mr. Laing). The cabinet blamed trial; it was so referred to by the Minister of the Minister of Transport (Mr. Hellyer) for