

Supply—Privy Council

commission directions or recommend what it should do.

Mr. Churchill: How are they spending the money?

Mr. Favreau: If the right hon. gentleman wishes, I shall read from the information I have here. It might be unfair to the house because it is quite long, but it relates to the activities of the commission on bilingualism and biculturalism. If questions were put on the order paper, the procedure would be simpler.

Mr. Aiken: This is the place to do it.

Mr. Favreau: The commission held a preliminary hearing in Ottawa on November 7 and 8, 1963. Institutions, organizations and private individuals were invited to explain their conception of the commission's terms of reference and to state their views on what procedure it should adopt. Seventy six people appeared before the commission at this hearing. During January, the chairman of the commission, accompanied by the secretary, visited the premiers of all the provinces in order to solicit their co-operation, especially in the field of education. In the course of these visits they met many people of consequence, and therefore the members contacted the general public in each province.

The commission held 23 regional meetings. They were, in effect, informal hearings which took the form of one or two day conferences or seminars. The participants ranged from 100 to over 700 persons at individual meetings. The commission met with and listened to the views of a total of between 10,000 and 12,000 individual Canadians of many different backgrounds, occupations and age groups. The commission has now held formal hearings in eight cities across Canada, that is Vancouver, Quebec, Ottawa, Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg, Halifax and Moncton and will be finishing this aspect of its work with hearings in Edmonton and Regina, and a second session in each of Winnipeg, Montreal, Toronto and Ottawa.

● (3:20 p.m.)

In conjunction with the hearings, and at other times, the commissioners will be continuing their private and less formal meetings with a cross section of Canadians, as well as attending relevant conferences and other gatherings. The program and liaison division, which was originally responsible for planning and implementing the commission's regional meetings, arranging the commission hearings and

programming other public activities, has been reduced as the commission's functions have changed. A small staff remains to arrange the last series of hearings and to maintain the necessary contacts with voluntary and other organizations and agencies whose work is of direct interest to the commission.

With regard to briefs, the commission has received to date 383 briefs from all over Canada and will receive more in the next few months. These briefs have now been analysed and summarized by the staff for the commission's work, excepting those received recently.

The distribution of French and English briefs in the whole of Canada is as follows: French, 98; English, 219; bilingual, 66. For each province the list is as follows: Newfoundland, 1; Prince Edward Island, 2; Nova Scotia, 6; New Brunswick, 9; Quebec, 104; Ontario, 156; Manitoba, 48; Saskatchewan, 12; Alberta, 26 and British Columbia, 19.

The commission has prepared and submitted to the government a preliminary report dealing with its findings at the time of the report. The research is entrusted to a research division which comprises 71 full-time and 11 part-time staff. The research activities of the royal commission began after a planning period in June 1964, and the subjects for study have been organized in eight divisions, which are respectively headed demography and statistics, institutional studies, behavioural studies, federal public service, social and economic studies, education, mass media and communications, and language and culture.

The commission is now moving into the detailed and systematic integration and analysis of its material and information. The findings from the comprehensive research program and the material in briefs and gathered through the commissioners' own many meetings, hearings and discussions are being combined and studied. Several internal processes have been instituted to permit the most effective use of materials and staff resources in assisting the commissioners toward their conclusions, and the statement of these in reports to the government.

While the commissioners will continue meeting with groups and individuals as their internal work matures, and staff groups will continue programming public activities and monitoring current events, the major emphasis now will be on the systematic analysis of findings and the development of conclusions and recommendations. Staff resources are being realigned to meet this shift in function.