

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. If I should allow further supplementary questions now, it seems there are two or three other members who wish to pose them. Later on I shall return to the hon. members for Cape Breton-East Richmond and Charlevoix.

**Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond):** I have a further supplementary question.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I wonder whether the hon. member will accept my suggestion that we go on to another subject, and perhaps return to this matter later in the afternoon.

[*Translation*]

**Hon. Martial Asselin (Charlevoix):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the right hon. Prime Minister.

In view of the fact that decisions rendered by the Supreme Court with regard to constitutional matters—like the one concerning the off-shore mineral rights which was referred to lately—have not always been accepted by all the provinces, will the right hon. Prime Minister, or the government, decide some day, in order to settle constitutional conflicts between the provinces and the federal government, to set up a constitutional court on which representatives of the provinces and the federal government would sit, so that the decisions rendered by the said court would bind all those concerned?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, at the constitutional conference in December we intend to make certain proposals concerning the Supreme Court and we hope that, as a result of that conference, the Supreme Court will not come under federal jurisdiction but under the constitution itself, in a way which will be considered satisfactory by the provinces.

**Mr. Asselin:** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a supplementary question.

Does the Prime Minister mean that the federal government will suggest to the provinces that a constitutional court be established to deal with the jurisdiction conflicts existing between the federal government and the provinces?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, I would not wish the hon. member to press me for a definite statement on the position of the government. I spoke of the matter in a general way, but I am following the rules of the game accepted by federal and provincial officials

[Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond).]

according to which these discussions are to remain confidential until very shortly before the conference itself.

[*English*]

[*Later:*]

**Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie):** Mr. Speaker, I should like now to pursue the question which I originally intended to ask the right hon. Prime Minister with regard to offshore mineral rights. Did the Prime Minister write to the landlocked provinces, such as Alberta and Saskatchewan, with regard to the decision of the federal government? If so, is this an admission on his part that these provinces are also entitled to a share of the wealth?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Perhaps only the first part of the question is in order.

**Mr. Trudeau:** If this is an answer to the hon. member's question, I would say that I wrote to the premiers of all provinces.

**Mr. Korchinski:** Then as a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Prime Minister whether the provinces are entitled to make submissions to the federal government, or must they consult with the other provinces if they feel they should get a portion of the wealth?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Well, Mr. Speaker, we hope this is the type of question that the provinces would be able to settle amongst themselves. Of course if they cannot, and if they want to come to the federal government for guidance, we will gladly give it to them.

**Mr. Baldwin:** God help them.

[*Translation*]

**NATIONAL CAPITAL****SUGGESTED DISCUSSIONS TO EXTEND BILINGUAL CHARACTER**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the right hon. Prime Minister.

Has the right hon. Prime Minister, or the government, entered into negotiations with the authorities of the city of Ottawa—the national capital—with a view to its becoming a bilingual city as soon as possible, notably with regard to road signs?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I wonder if that question is not too general in nature to be put at this time. In any event, I shall allow the