

Inquiries of the Ministry

calibre in order that he can get his report in very shortly and so that in future he will be able to get his reports in on time as required by the Financial Administration Act?

Mr. Trudeau: Well, Mr. Speaker, every minister in this government would like to have more staff. It is my job to receive these demands on behalf of—

Mr. Hees: Give them some of yours.

Mr. Trudeau: I have even heard that the opposition requires more staff. I do not think more staff would help them. Perhaps a different kind of staff might.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I am not sure whether hon. members wish to pursue supplementaries on this very important and interesting subject, but I again bring to their attention that we shall be running out of time soon.

[Translation]

Is the hon. member for Témiscamingue rising to ask a supplementary?

Mr. Caouette: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Témiscamingue.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

THREATS AGAINST CANADIAN CONSUL IN SAN JUAN—
POSSIBLE DEPORTATION OF HUMBERTO PAGAN—
REQUEST FOR STATEMENT

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Is the hon. gentleman willing to make a statement regarding the threats against the Canadian Consul in San Juan, Porto Rico, to protest the possible deportation of the militant nationalist Pagan who is being detained in Ottawa for having illegally entered Canada?

[English]

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, this is a very serious matter. I do not want to undertake to make a statement at the present time because deportation proceedings are now under way against this person and I do not believe it would be in order for me to make a statement. I am aware that threats have been made against the consulate and this, I think, is most unfortunate, because we want to see justice done.

[Translation]

Mr. Caouette: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

I appreciate the reasons of the Secretary of State for External Affairs, but since Cuba or Chili are willing to accept the Porto Rican nationalist, would the department be prepared to consider the possibility of handing him over to either Cuban or Chilean authorities?

[English]

Mr. Sharp: This is a question which ought really to be directed at this stage to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. But perhaps I could add that there are two

[Mr. Harkness.]

kinds of procedures under way. One of them is for deportation, in which case the appeal board and ultimately the minister would have to deal with the matter. There is another procedure involving extradition. It is necessary to take both into account. This is why I am reluctant to make a statement at this time which might in some way affect the course of justice.

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POST OFFICE

CONTRACT TO ITT—PARTICIPATION BY J. W. MOODIE IN
WORK OF CODING TASK FORCE

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): My question is for the Postmaster General, Mr. Speaker. In his absence perhaps the Acting Postmaster General or the parliamentary secretary might reply. It arises from the statement made in the House last Monday by the Postmaster General and reported at page 529 of *Hansard* as follows:

Mr. Moodie never worked for our coding and mechanization branch nor did he in any way collaborate in its work.

I draw attention now to another statement in a report on this subject, prepared by Samson, Belair, Riddell and Stead, expressing appreciation for help from various people and adding:

—but none could be more stimulating than the coding task force under the team leadership of Mr. J. W. Moodie, the department's chief engineer.

In view of these contradicting statements can a statement be made on the subject at the earliest possible moment?

Mr. Gerald Cobbe (Parliamentary Secretary to Postmaster General): I will bring this matter to the attention of the minister and make sure that the hon. member receives an answer.

Mr. Dinsdale: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Again I seek the co-operation of hon. members in limiting the number of supplementaries.

Mr. Dinsdale: In view of the suspicion around ITT government dealings on both sides of the border perhaps the Prime Minister, as captain of the leaky ship of state, could make a statement on this matter.

Mr. Trudeau: I was not following the exchange, Mr. Speaker.

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HEALTH

NEGOTIATIONS WITH PROVINCES ON INCLUSION OF
OPTOMETRIC SERVICES IN MEDICARE

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. May I ask whether the hon. gentleman is in a position to report any progress in connection with the negotiations he has been carrying on with the provinces