

Inquiries of the Ministry

tell us whether this proposed legislation in any way contravenes the international convention?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member asks a question which is clearly out of order. For one thing he is asking for an expression of opinion on a legal matter, and that cannot be done on orders of the day.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**POSSIBLE LEGISLATION TO PROTECT CANADIAN INVESTMENT ABROAD**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. J. W. Monteith (Perth): I should like to ask a question of the Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. Speaker. Is the government considering legislation to insure Canadian companies in developing countries against loss through nationalization, revolution or any other political development under their governments?

Hon. Robert Winters (Minister of Trade and Commerce): No, Mr. Speaker. There has been a suggestion that something might be done under the provisions of the Export Credits Insurance Corporation, but no new legislation is being contemplated.

BILINGUALISM AND BICULTURALISM**SUGGESTED RELEASE OF COMMISSION STAFF TO OVERCOME TRANSLATION BACKLOG**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (Queens-Lunenburg): I have a question for the Acting Prime Minister. In view of the fact that there is an estimated two million word backlog of English-French translation in government work, representing about six man years of labour, is the government giving any consideration to the early termination of the activities of the commission on bilingualism and biculturalism, which compounds this problem?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The question as asked includes an inference, and cannot properly be asked at this time.

Mr. Crouse: I wish to rephrase my question to the Acting Prime Minister, and ask him whether he will give consideration to releasing the staff now engaged by the B and B commission in order to shorten the delay which presently exists in the translation of government documents, and speed up the process of government.

[Mr. Barnett.]

INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Eric A. Winkler (Grey-Bruce): I should like to ask the Acting Prime Minister whether orders have been transmitted for the return of the hon. member for Leeds from his world-wide trip.

Hon. Paul Martin (Acting Prime Minister): I know the hon. gentleman is envious both of the opportunity which has been given to the hon. member for Leeds and of the distinguished way in which he is carrying on his activities.

Mr. Winkler: I should like to ask the Acting Prime Minister what is the fee for joining the J. R. Matheson appreciation organization.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

PROCEDURE**INQUIRY AS TO PERSONNEL OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the leader of the house with reference to the special committee on the procedure of the House of Commons. The motion setting up this committee was passed on January 25. Can the hon. gentleman say when the personnel who are to serve on the committee will be named, and can he tell us what are the government's intentions for this committee during the remainder of this session?

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Minister of Public Works): I hope the persons who are to serve on this committee will be designated today. As to the plans of the committee, I cannot very well speak on the committee's behalf.

EXPO '67**PROPOSED IMPORTATION OF VESSEL FOR USE AS FLOATING HOTEL**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): I believe my question should be directed to the Minister of National Revenue inasmuch as it relates to customs matters. Has any application been made to bring a ship called the *Florida* into Montreal harbour from its present berth at Tampa, Florida some time around March 1 to be used as a floating hotel for visitors to Expo? In view of the fact that the *Florida* is built of wood to the extent of some 25 per