

Inquiries of the Ministry

[Translation]

NATIONAL CENSUS**QUEBEC INQUIRY INTO APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONERS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, may I put a question to the future minister of manpower?

Was the minister consulted by his colleague, the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Winters), with regard to the appointment of the commissioners for the census to be held in June?

Mr. Speaker: Since it is not urgent, this question cannot be accepted.

Mr. Gilles Grégoire (Lapointe): Mr. Speaker, may I put a supplementary question—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Since the question was not accepted, the hon. member may not put a supplementary question.

Mr. Grégoire: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, the question was not accepted for lack of immediate urgency, but it was not ruled out of order—

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Yes, it was.

Mr. Grégoire:—and I feel that, in the circumstances, a supplementary question is in order.

Mr. Speaker: Order. My interpretation of the standing orders is not the same as that of the hon. member for Lapointe (Mr. Grégoire).

[Later:]

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce, I shall direct my question to the right hon. Prime Minister.

Would the Prime Minister ask his colleague, the Minister of Trade and Commerce, to table in the house a list of all those who have suggested names for the 1966 national census?

Mr. Speaker: Order. This question is out of order for the same reason as the one asked a minute ago by the hon. member for Villeneuve (Mr. Caouette).

If the hon. member believes this matter to be very urgent, he can discuss it at ten o'clock.

Mr. Grégoire: At ten o'clock, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, that is of course a conditional question which it is difficult for me to answer. The circumstances regarding the admission of the mainland government of China to the United Nations depend not exclusively on the attitude of other members of the United Nations but on the attitude of that government itself to conditions which it might lay down for membership in the United Nations.

Mr. Douglas: Could I ask the Prime Minister whether there is any obstacle in the way of extending diplomatic recognition to communist China, as has already been done by a great many countries including the United Kingdom and France, where the attitude of mainland China with respect to Formosa is not involved.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I suggest to the hon. member that the question is argumentative, and it seems to me we are entering into a debate on the subject. I do not think this particular question should be allowed.

Mr. Douglas: May I rephrase my question and ask the Prime Minister whether there are any obstacles standing in the way of Canadian recognition of mainland China.

Mr. Pearson: There is the difficulty which might occur if the government of mainland China were to insist that any diplomatic recognition of the regime should include areas such as Formosa where its writ does not now run.

Mr. Nesbitt: Can the Prime Minister tell us whether the climate among Canada's friends, unlike the Ottawa climate in another sense, is so improved that recognition of the People's Republic of China may come at a date earlier than might have been expected a short while ago?

Mr. Speaker: Order. This question again is argumentative.

[Later:]

Mr. Eric A. Winkler (Grey-Bruce): Mr. Speaker, I have a question I should like to direct to the Secretary of State for External Affairs consonant with an earlier question directed to the Prime Minister. Has the hon. gentleman or the government reconsidered the extension of diplomatic recognition to the Chinese government on the island of Formosa?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Speaker, I am sure that the experienced whip, the hon. member for Grey-Bruce, will have carefully noted that the question was adequately responded to by the Prime Minister.