

Inquiries of the Ministry

tures? If so, when will an official announcement be made?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I believe this is the same question in another form and my answer is the same. The government has some intentions. They are expressed in the supplementary estimates which were tabled a few days ago. The minister will gladly explain their intent at greater length when he defends his estimates.

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the Prime Minister's statement about the minister being prepared to answer questions when his estimates are before the House, will the Prime Minister assure us that those estimates will be before the House during the present session and that the minister concerned will answer questions in defending his estimates before the House during the present session?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, if the Leader of the Opposition is anxious to have this particular subject discussed he could, of course, use one of the opposition days to do that.

Mr. Stanfield: The Prime Minister should read the rules again.

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[Translation]

PUBLIC SERVICE

ALLEGED HIRING OF UNILINGUAL TRANSLATORS FROM FRANCE

Mr. Roland Godin (Portneuf): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State.

In answer to a question that I asked him some time ago, the Secretary of State said that he would investigate and tell the House how many unilingual translators from France, hired by the Bureau for translations, were now taking intensive courses to improve their knowledge of English. Could he tell us now how many such persons are taking those courses?

Mr. Speaker: May I suggest to the hon. member that such a question should normally be put on the order paper. The hon. member is asking for strictly statistical information. In general, such questions should be put on the order paper. The hon. member states that the question has already been asked and that the minister has agreed to give the required information. Considering the circumstances and if the figures are immediately available, the minister may answer the question. Otherwise, it should be put on the order paper.

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, the hon. member was too long in coming back to his question. I have had the answer with precise figures in the folder in front of me for many weeks; but I note that it has now disappeared. I shall therefore answer the question if it is put on the order paper.

[English]

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

ALLEGED INEFFECTIVENESS OF POLICIES IN QUEBEC—MEETING WITH PREMIER—DISCUSSION OF CRITICISMS WITH ATLANTIC PROVINCES' PREMIERS

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. In view of statements made by the Prime Minister of Quebec to the effect that government policies have been ineffective in that province in ending regional disparities, does the minister intend to meet with the Prime Minister of Quebec to discuss this very important matter?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I called the Prime Minister of Quebec this morning and he told me he had never said that. He said he was referring to taxes and not to the regional program which he supports entirely.

Mr. McGrath: Does the minister intend to meet with or call the premiers of the four Atlantic provinces, as requested in the report of the Atlantic Development Council, to discuss criticisms aimed at his policies in the Atlantic provinces?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, I met with them last week and all of them were very happy with what we were doing in Nova Scotia, in New Brunswick, in P.E.I. and in Newfoundland.

• (2:40 p.m.)

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker: Does the hon. member for Témiscamingue wish to put a supplementary question?

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Yes, Mr. Speaker and I note that at least the Minister of Regional Expansion is pleased.

Can the minister say whether before earmaking any funds for economic expansion purposes—whether in Quebec or in the Maritimes—he communicates with the authorities of that province?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Yes, Mr. Speaker. We have set up offices in each province and every step is taken in co-operation with provincial authorities.

[English]

RE-EVALUATION OF POLICIES IN LIGHT OF CRITICISMS

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Notwithstanding the answer given by the minister to the House, in light of the unanimous criticisms aimed at his policies by all the agencies involved, including agencies under his jurisdiction such as the Atlantic Development Council and the Canadian Council on Rural Development, does the minister intend to re-evaluate the effectiveness of the present DREE policies in ending regional disparity?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I absolutely refuse to answer a question the premises of which are false—