

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

relating to the establishment of bilingual districts as recommended by the advisory board. My question relates specifically to areas suggested for reconsideration such as the city of Thompson, Manitoba. If reconsideration is given to these areas suggested by the board, will this be based on the criteria of the Official Languages Act or will additional criteria be taken into consideration?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I am afraid I cannot answer the question beyond what I answered a moment ago, that we have 90 days to study this report. I prefer not to hypothesize as to what the government might do. I apologize if I did not understand some subtlety of the question, but unless there is a specific supplementary that is as far as I can go.

**Mr. Simpson:** Is the Prime Minister in a position at this time to say whether the government is considering any additional criteria to those contained in the Official Languages Act?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Not to my knowledge, Mr. Speaker. It may be that the Secretary of State has a memorandum which he will submit to cabinet as a result of his study of this report, but as far as I know there are no further criteria at present before the cabinet.

[Later:]

[Translation]

**Mr. Georges Valade (Sainte-Marie):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct to the Prime Minister a question which is supplementary to the one asked by my colleague the member for Churchill.

Why is it that the Commissioner has not considered the province of Ontario as one bilingual district the way he did with the province of Quebec?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member knows that it is provided in the act that a Board is to be established in order that the government be relieved from having to make such decisions on a political basis and in order that the Board may consider the problems objectively. The hon. member could perhaps read the report and then find for himself the reason why the result has been as published by the Board.

**Mr. Valade:** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a further supplementary.

Could the Prime Minister tell us whether he intends to take steps in order to protect the rights of French-speaking minorities in Ontario?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the Official Languages Act which was passed by Parliament is precisely to guarantee the linguistic rights of French and English-speaking minorities throughout the country. The hon. member knows that this act provides that this must be done on a practical basis and that for that purpose it is necessary to establish bilingual districts. These bilingual districts will be established in the light of the report of

[Mr. Simpson.]

the Board, and I am sure that the hon. member will be invited to express his views at that time.

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[English]

**FISHERIES****SURVEILLANCE OF EAST COAST FISHING ZONES BY ARMED FORCES' CRAFT**

**Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East):** Mr. Speaker, in view of the resolution passed at the recent meeting of the Fisheries Council of Canada calling upon the government to increase its surveillance of our east coast fishing zones, I should like to ask whether in fact surveillance by armed forces' air and surface craft is continuing and whether this surveillance will be kept up during this peak fishing season?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, surveillance is continuing, particularly by Tracker aircraft. In respect of the long-range intention, I hope to be able to speak at some length on this when the white paper is presented to the House.

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**GRAIN****WESTERN CANADA—GOVERNMENT LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM—MEANING OF STATEMENT BY MINISTER**

**Mr. Jack McIntosh (Swift Current-Maple Creek):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the minister responsible for the Wheat Board. It is based on a news release under today's date from his office. It refers to objections by the opposition to the Liberal government's agricultural legislative program and says that it would cost the western farmers \$100 million this year if our opposition continues.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. McIntosh:** I ask the minister to elaborate on this statement by informing the House whether this is a threat of closure in regard to our actions in opposition to the agricultural program, or is it legislation by intimidation?

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**URBAN AFFAIRS****FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR MASS TRANSIT**

**Mr. Barry Mather (Surrey-White Rock):** Mr. Speaker, in view of the \$10 billion program the United States government has initiated in respect of mass transit in urban areas in the United States, can the minister who reports to the House on urban affairs inform the House what, if any, program he has in mind for Canada along this line?