

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, I reject completely the premise of the question posed by the hon. member. I do want to point out that I am in complete agreement with what the minister has said, that we have ensured that the guidelines were followed by the hon. gentleman, that he followed the guidelines to the extent of asking advice, as the guidelines provide, before accepting this job, and he adhered to the guidelines in every way.

Nonetheless we are, as the minister said, reviewing the case. It is possible that the guidelines might have to be changed if this gives rise to any unfair advantage. I just want to point out that the guidelines were not changed during the period when the hon. member was part of the government of this country. They kept the guidelines, we are keeping them now. We are always ready to review them if they lead to some unfair advantage.

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BILINGUALISM

REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE IN PROPOSED BUDGET OF ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR PROGRAM

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap): Madam Speaker, I have a very serious question for the Prime Minister. All parties in the House support the concept of bilingualism and I trust that all members are doing whatever they can in support of bilingualism during these very crucial and historic times. However, in some parts of Canada at least, bilingualism is in jeopardy at this time. If one assumes that education is the cornerstone of a successful bilingual program, the federal funding for bilingual education has been curtailed in the last couple of years, last year from \$200 million to the present year—

Madam Speaker: Order, please. Will the hon. member please ask his question.

Mr. Riis: My question to the Prime Minister is: in the new budget will the Prime Minister assure the House that adequate funding for bilingual education will be provided so that school districts with active programs can have them maintained and expanded?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, I hope the hon. member will accept the notion that it is not only the federal government which is responsible for bilingualism; in the spirit in which he asks the question, every province which has jurisdiction over education should be concerned with that. We have been funding substantially education systems in the provinces to the extent of an amount in excess of \$2 billion a year for various aspects of post-secondary education which is given to the provinces. The spirit in which we help bilingual education specifically, or education in the other official language, was that the provinces themselves be prepared to accept some responsibilities, and it is in that sense that we hope the provinces will continue to show interest in the matter and that the federal government will not always have to

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continue supporting them in areas which they claim very strongly are within their jurisdiction.

Mr. Riis: Madam Speaker, I am really disappointed to hear that response. Perhaps on another matter, certainly related to the forthcoming budget, may I ask the Prime Minister if he could use his good offices to work with the powers that be to ensure that adequate funds are set aside so that staffs of members of Parliament can have the opportunity for second language education to carry on in the tradition that we do as members.

An hon. Member: Ask Francis Fox.

Madam Speaker: Order, please. This is a matter which is under my purview. We are looking at this question and if the hon. member wishes to discuss it, he can come to my office. We might do that after the question period.

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NATIONAL HARBOURS BOARD

INQUIRY RESPECTING EXPANSION OF PORT FACILITIES

Mr. Maurice Harquail (Restigouche): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport and has to do with ports policy. In view of the fact that Bill C-60 died on the order paper some time ago, I wonder if the minister could inform the House as to his own plans in terms of the planning, construction and expansion of port facilities with respect to the National Harbours Board, and particularly in ports in northern New Brunswick?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, my hon. friend is referring to Bill C-50, I think. This was a bill the intent of which was to bring the whole of the port structure in Canada under a single umbrella. This was well received by some but not by others, and as my friend said, the bill was not passed.

● (1440)

In recent months I have received a great number of representations and I have consulted with a great number of people. What the press indicated a few days ago was that we were now moving toward the recognition of a greater element of diversity in our future port policy. The idea would be to have the national harbours commission bill as it is and to try to improve on the National Harbours Board Act in order to allow for a different kind of structure. I will soon be introducing these ideas to my colleagues in cabinet before doing so in the House of Commons.