

real, Three Rivers and Quebec in view of the mediator having thrown in the towel, so to speak?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I am afraid I cannot enlighten the hon. member on that, and I have not had a chance to speak to the Minister of Labour this morning.

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CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

REASON FOR LARGE CREW TO COVER COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): My question is directed to the Secretary of State who is responsible for the CBC. At a time when the leaders of our land are asking for restraint among Canadians, can the minister check with the new executive vice president of the CBC, who allegedly has some experience in cost control, to find out why it is necessary for the CBC to send more people to the Commonwealth conference in Jamaica than there will be in the Prime Minister's delegation?

Hon. James Hugh Faulkner (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I will find out, but I take it it is because the CBC and a lot of people in this country attach a great deal of importance to the Commonwealth.

Mr. Nowlan: Since CTV reportedly will cover this important conference with one cameraman and one reporter, could not a bilingual reporter with unilingual units adequately do it justice, and, if not, has Keith Spicer been consulted?

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HEALTH

BACTERIAL VIRUS RESEARCH BY UNITED STATES—REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE SUCH RESEARCH NOT BEING CONDUCTED NEAR CANADIAN BORDER

Mr. Stan Darling (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Is the minister aware of research presently being conducted in the United States involving the cloning of bacterial viruses?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Darling: Can the minister assure the House that such research is not being carried on in close proximity or indeed within Canadian borders by either U.S. or Canadian research organizations?

[Translation]

Mr. Lalonde: Mr. Speaker, I cannot control research performed in the United States even when it is done near the Canadian border.

Oral Questions

[English]

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

MANNER IN WHICH REPORT OF COMMISSIONER WRITTEN—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Arnold Malone (Battle River): I should like to direct this question to the right hon. Prime Minister and ask him whether the government considers it acceptable that the Commissioner of Official Languages, in writing his annual report, chose to write it in such a flippant manner as to make this government's major program obscure and difficult to decipher in an analytical and critical way?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I could ask the same question of the hon. member. He will realize, of course, that the Commissioner of Official Languages was appointed by parliament under the act, and that he is not responsible directly to the government.

Mr. Malone: Inasmuch as it is important for parliamentarians to be able to analyse these matters carefully, will the Prime Minister consider directing department people to write their annual reports in such a manner as to make it possible to analyse them in the way that the reports of the various departments must be analysed?

Mr. Trudeau: I must retort with the explanation that Mr. Spicer is not a departmental person. He is an officer of this parliament, not of the government. Personally, I do not quite agree with the views expressed by the hon. member. I think I can analyse Mr. Spicer's report rather more easily than he can.

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[Translation]

THE CANADIAN CONSTITUTION

CONDITIONS IMPOSED BY QUEBEC FOR REPATRIATION

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Prime Minister.

Some ten days ago the Quebec premier stated in Nicolet that he was willing to reopen the file on the constitutional review. He indicated that Quebec, before agreeing to the repatriation of the constitution, wanted to make sure that the amendment formula would be drawn up to enable that province to obtain a special status. Under the circumstances, is the Prime Minister also in position to tell us whether he is ready to reopen that file, taking into consideration the condition set by the Quebec premier?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the member was kind enough to send me the press cutting which he quotes. I did not have the opportunity to check the matter. I did not speak recently to Mr. Bourassa to see if indeed the newspaper quotation was accurate. I very much doubt it.