

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I hesitate to suggest that any question at this time should be put on the order paper, because of the very special character of the sittings, but it appears to me that it is statistical information for which the hon. member for Grey-Bruce is now asking and I wonder whether the question should be allowed. I should not think so.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE**SPENCE ROYAL COMMISSION—INQUIRY
AS TO REPORT**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. E. D. Fulton (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the right hon. Prime Minister whether he intends to table at the earliest possible moment a copy of the report by Commissioner Spence, which I understand he now has.

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): My hon. friend is misinformed, Mr. Speaker. I have not that report.

Mr. Fulton: Has the Prime Minister any information as to when it may be available?

Mr. Pearson: I have no definite information, Mr. Speaker. The Privy Council office have been making inquiries from time to time.

NATIONAL DEFENCE**CENSORING OF EVIDENCE OF OFFICERS—
RESTRICTIONS ON USE OF FRENCH**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Harold E. Winch (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Defence which I think is of absolute urgency and concerns a matter that requires clarification. Would the minister inform this house whether in respect of officers of the armed services giving evidence before the defence committee of the House of Commons it is correct that their presentations are received by him and censored before they are allowed to be made to the committee of the House of Commons?

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of National Defence): No, Mr. Speaker. I do not believe in censorship any more than my hon. friend does. He was present in the committee and knows that there was no restriction whatever in respect of the questions asked and the answers given.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Gilles Grégoire (Lapointe): May I put a supplementary question to the Minister of Na-
[Mr. Winkler.]

tional Defence? I should like to ask the minister whether he has noted the regulation prohibiting members of the armed forces to speak French in the air force shops?

What are the department's intentions concerning this regulation?

[*English*]

Mr. Hellyer: To the best of my knowledge there is no such regulation but I can assure my hon. friend that if there is, this is one of the things that will be changed.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Grégoire: Another supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

In view of the fact that such a regulation has been posted at the Bagotville airport, could not the minister inquire whether such a regulation exists within the Canadian army?

[*English*]

Mr. Hellyer: Yes, but I understand that was in the air force, Mr. Speaker.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Grégoire: This applies to the army and the navy.

[*English*]

Mr. Winch: Mr. Speaker, I desired to ask a supplementary question before the previous question was asked. I am afraid I did not get an answer to my question. I should like to ask the Minister of National Defence, in view of what he just said, whether the information given by a now retired vice admiral that his presentation to the defence committee, made in camera, was censored and certain parts cut out before he made that presentation, is correct. Can we have a direct answer as to whether that was done?

Mr. Hellyer: Mr. Speaker, I will be glad to answer all the questions in respect of this matter when the committee meets.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Churchill: Answer it now.

Mr. Hellyer: At that time perhaps my hon. friend would like to call the admiral and ask him any additional questions he might care to put. If he will check the evidence that was given the day the maritime commander appeared before the committee, he will find that in his testimony he did give figures with respect to manpower and recruiting, and there was no limitation whatsoever in respect of the questions or the answers.