

Inquiries of the Ministry

that French-speaking persons will be on duty at the entrance of the parliament building?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member's representations have been noted.

TELEVISION**REQUEST FOR POLICY STATEMENT ON
EDUCATIONAL BROADCASTING**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Georges Valade (Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question—which is not supplementary—to the hon. Secretary of State.

It concerns a statement on educational television he made earlier. Would the minister tell the house whether he intends to ask the provinces to send him their suggestions and their opinions on the matter, either by letter or otherwise, before he establishes another federal research commission?

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): This is precisely one of the things which are included in the terms of reference of the task force which has been set up in this regard. However, Mr. Speaker, I wish to remind the hon. member that all the provinces have been invited and that most of them have accepted to give evidence before the committee on broadcasting, films and assistance to the arts which, during the last session, heard numerous representations.

Mr. Valade: I wish to ask a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

Does the Secretary of State intend to ask the provinces to appoint a permanent delegate to that research agency?

Mr. Pelletier: The matter has not been considered, Mr. Speaker, we have not set up the task force yet. When we get to that stage, and when the time comes to select the personnel, I will be able to answer the hon. member.

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a supplementary question to the hon. minister.

When the minister says that most of the provinces have accepted the invitation, can he tell us whether the province of Quebec did too?

Mr. Pelletier: Mr. Speaker the province of Quebec has not answered our invitation to appear before the parliamentary committee,

[Mr. Laprise.]

but through one of its ministers, it has already made a very brief but rather significant comment.

Mr. Marcel Masse, a Quebec minister, said: These portions of the White Paper which propose what I have announced today open the door to a concrete co-operation between the federal and the provincial governments.

Hon. Théogène Ricard (Saint-Hyacinthe): Does the minister not think that it would be greatly preferable if he communicated with the government himself in order to know its views, rather than leave the matter in abeyance and interpret a speech in his own way?

Mr. Pelletier: Mr. Speaker, a question is put to me and I try to answer. On the other hand, it is the first time that the hon. member makes that suggestion, but I am taking note thereof.

[English]

BILINGUALISM AND BICULTURALISM**ALLEGED LEAKS RESPECTING REPORTS OF
ROYAL COMMISSION**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): My question is for the right hon. Prime Minister. In view of the alarming leaks which have been coming in recent days from the royal commission on bilingualism and biculturalism I wonder what steps the Prime Minister and his government are taking to prevent this damaging appearance of perhaps even inaccurate material from the commission.

Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, as the house knows, the proceedings of a royal commission which is still engaged in the preparation of its report are a matter for that commission, and royal commissions are established in such a way as to have the degree of independence from the government which is required in order to make their own research and prepare reports in conformity with their own views. Therefore I do not think it is proper for us to intervene in the procedures and proceedings of a royal commission. They are in full control of them or, to use another expression, they are the masters of their own proceedings.

I can only say that until yesterday—and I do not believe any communication has arrived today—this commission has not communicated with my office to indicate that we