

Has the Gendron Commission on the situation of the French language in Quebec consulted with the federal government during its term or at least before tabling its final report?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Not to my knowledge, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Matte: Mr. Speaker, on a supplementary, may I ask whether the government intends to intervene if the recommendations of this report are found contrary to the constitution or at least contrary to the Official Languages Act?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, this is a rather hypothetical question, but I think the answer is self-evident. If the recommendations are contrary to the constitution, they will not be applicable.

QUEBEC—POSSIBILITY THAT GENDRON COMMISSION
RECOMMENDATIONS RUN COUNTER TO LAW—
GOVERNMENT POSITION—STATEMENT FROM PRIME
MINISTER REQUESTED

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a supplementary. Will the right hon. Prime Minister tell us if he is prepared to make a statement on the recommendations of the Gendron Commission?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I would have to wait first, like all other members, for the publication of the report.

Mr. John Harney (Scarborough West): Mr. Speaker, a supplementary to the right hon. Prime Minister, if I may.

Could he enlighten us on his interpretation of the word "national" as used by the Gendron Commission in the expression "a national language"?

Mr. Speaker: I do not think the question can be put as formulated. The hon. member is asking the right hon. Prime Minister to give an opinion on the meaning of a word.

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[English]

LABOUR RELATIONS

ELEVATOR CONSTRUCTORS' STRIKE—FEDERAL
GOVERNMENT ACTION TO ACHIEVE SETTLEMENT

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address this question to the Prime Minister. In light of the national crisis now affecting housing units because of cost, shortage and the economy of the country, what do the government and the Prime Minister intend to do to assist in the negotiations for a settlement of the lengthy strike of elevator construction workers which is affecting the economy of Canada in all its facets? This strike has reached the level of a crisis in respect of shortages in housing and the general health and well-being of the Canadian people.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I would expect the hon. member would want me to defer to the Minister of Labour.

Mr. Stanfield: By all means.

An hon. Member: Go ahead.

Oral Questions

Mr. Trudeau: Apparently he does not want me to do that.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Woolliams: If the Prime Minister does not want to answer this question—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Woolliams: —I will put it to the Minister of Finance.

An hon. Member: He won't or cannot answer it.

Mr. Woolliams: In light of the Prime Minister's refusal to answer, and in light of the fact that the strike has been going on for months without any intervention on the part of the federal government, will he take leadership and intervene?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

An hon. Member: Explain.

Mr. Hees: There is nothing personal, John.

Mr. Woolliams: Will the minister consult with the Minister of Manpower and Immigration, the Minister of Labour, the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and the Minister of State responsible for housing in an endeavour to settle this strike which is affecting the economy of the country?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I am sure the hon. member for Calgary North appreciates that a question asked of the Minister of Finance in those terms is not in order.

Mr. Woolliams: May I put it to the Minister of Labour?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

An hon. Member: It is about time.

Some hon. Members: Order!

An hon. Member: No answer; non-government.

Mr. Nielsen: Take this to your leader.

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Speaker, in light of the fact the federal government has done nothing to intervene in respect of this strike which is costing \$250,000 a day in taxpayers' money, will the Minister of Labour now meet with the parties involved or with the various premiers of the provinces to bring to an end this strike which is not only affecting the economy but the health and welfare of the people of Canada?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, it is not correct to say that we have done nothing. The fact is that we as the federal government have absolutely no jurisdiction to intervene in this particular strike.

An hon. Member: Tell us another one.

Mr. Munro (Hamilton East): It is exclusively a matter of provincial jurisdiction. In spite of that fact, I did contact the Ontario government to indicate the serious implica-