

*Supply—Privy Council*

**Mr. Favreau:** For the period 1963-64 the total expenditure has been \$213,460. For the period 1964-65 it was \$185,178. There is also a forecast, for 1965-66—because the exact amount has not yet been ascertained—of \$178,900.

**Mr. Howard:** Pilotage is an extremely vital matter because the lives of Canadian and other sailors are involved in the activities of pilots.

When the royal commission was first appointed at a time when the present Leader of the Opposition was prime minister, it was expected that the commission would move with some dispatch and present its report at an early time. It will be recalled that a few days ago I inquired of the Prime Minister about this matter and he answered that he did not expect the royal commission to present its report before the end of this year. I see the President of the Privy Council is trying to indicate something.

**Mr. Favreau:** I can give the hon. member some information but I must point out that I am not personally familiar with the work of the commission, because it does not report to me. However, there is some information which I can give the hon. member, and which indicates that the commission's terms of reference are very broad in scope with the result that the inquiry is much longer than was originally anticipated. The public hearings which were originally expected to last only a few months eventually took 175 days of the commission's time in public sessions. More than 400 witnesses were heard, and the commission compiled a record of 175 volumes of the transcripts of evidence together with approximately 2,000 documents many of which were in bundles, that were entered into the commission's records as exhibits. The commission is now actively engaged in the review and analysis of this evidence, various research studies and the writing of its final report.

The information that I have confirms what was said by the Prime Minister that although we thought the commission would be able to report at the end of the last session it is now evident that its report will be handed to the government at the end of this year.

**Mr. Howard:** All the minister is saying is that the government seems to approach this particular commission's report with an air of embarrassed recognition of the fact that it has been too long delayed. I raised this

matter in the hope that the royal commissioner will speed up whatever he is doing.

I will refrain from making any comments about the other royal commissions which are listed here, such as the commission on bilingualism and biculturalism, because I have already expressed my views on them on other occasions, and I have not changed those views.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** There are many matters in connection with royal commissions on which I would like to secure information from the minister. The first one has to do with the commission on biculturalism and bilingualism. This has been a lengthy and costly commission, which up to the present has cost the government approximately \$4 million. Can the minister indicate to the house when this commission may be expected to report and what is the further expenditure to be incurred by it.

I should also like to ask the minister if and what countries it has visited, whether it has been in Puerto Rico, and how many members of the commission have travelled to that salubrious area. Can he tell me what particular matters of a health nature the commission has considered in its visit there in connection with the problems of bilingualism and biculturalism?

Furthermore I wish to ask the minister whether the government has in mind any changes or alterations in the formula for amending the constitution and whether changes are expected to be made following the report of the royal commission?

This reminds me that the hon. member for Mount Royal is quite an authority on this matter and has adopted an attitude to the question of amendments to the constitution which I hope will bring about changes in the thinking of the government both by direction and possibly by osmosis. I do hope that some of his ideas have permeated the mind of the President of the Privy Council. I should like to point out that the parliamentary secretary to the Prime Minister has an unusual viewpoint on this matter and one that is synonymous with the one expressed by Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition.

Still speaking about royal commissions, may I ask whether the minister is in a position to advise us whether Commissioner Spence has given any indication of when he will present his report. Will he do so before the end of this session, or will he be restrained from presenting it before the house adjourns?