

[Translation]

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES ACT**RECOMMENDATIONS OF CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE—
DATE OF ESTABLISHMENT OF FIRST BILINGUAL
DISTRICT**

Mr. Gaston J. Serré (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Secretary of State.

Does the minister intend to follow up in the near future the recommendations included in the Bilingual Districts Advisory Board report, which was tabled in the House yesterday, and, if so, when can we expect the official creation of a bilingual district in this country?

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, the government intends to study in the most diligent and the most attentive manner possible the report which was tabled in the House, but I should like to bring to the hon. member's attention paragraph 5 of section 13 which reads in part as follows:

No proclamation...shall be issued...before...at least ninety days have elapsed from the day a copy of the report was laid before Parliament pursuant to section 17.

This means that the first districts could not be proclaimed under the law before midsummer or late summer.

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POST OFFICE**STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH FORMER EMPLOYEES
OF G. LAPALME INC.**

Hon. Martial Asselin (Charlevoix): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Postmaster General.

For well over a year the Lapalme boys have been parading on Parliament Hill in an atmosphere, shall I say, of frustration and humiliation. Does the minister intend once and for all to settle this conflict which in my opinion has become more of a social and humanitarian problem than a mere union conflict?

Is the minister in a position to tell this House that he intends to take the necessary action to re-open this file and to give some kind of satisfaction to the families of these people who are living in misery?

Hon. Jean-Pierre Côté (Acting Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, the file is still open. Whenever I have the opportunity, I hire one or two of the Lapalme boys. Some 50 of them are already in my employ. Last December I made an offer whereby just about all of them could have been integrated into the public service, but they refused. I am not the one who is playing politics at the expense of the Lapalme boys.

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[English]

PUBLIC SERVICE**CLYNE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION FOR WITHDRAWAL
OF RIGHT TO BARGAIN COLLECTIVELY FROM
CERTAIN EMPLOYEES**

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the President of the

Inquiries of the Ministry

Treasury Board. In view of the concern expressed by many public servants, especially those in professional categories, with respect to the recommendation made by the Clyne committee that quite a number of public servants be taken out of the range of collective bargaining, can the President of the Treasury Board assure us that the government does not intend to take action along that line?

Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, as I think the House is aware, this whole question is currently under review and should be the subject of specific recommendations, I hope, later on.

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AIRPORTS**COLLINGWOOD—ASSISTANCE IN PAVING OF RUNWAYS**

Mr. P. V. Noble (Grey-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct this question to the Minister of Transport. In view of the urgent necessity for air service in the Georgian Bay area and the bad condition of the runways at Collingwood, is the government prepared to provide assistance for the paving of runways at municipal airports, especially those needed for constant traffic?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I will investigate the particular situation to which the hon. member refers and see if there is anything we can do.

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NATURAL RESOURCES**STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH PROVINCES ON OFF-
SHORE MINERAL RIGHTS—INQUIRY AS TO LEGISLATION**

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Secretary of State. In view of the interest in the ownership of offshore mineral rights, especially in Atlantic Canada, will the minister indicate whether any progress has been made in the negotiations with the provinces on this matter and, if so, whether any legislation will be introduced in the House prior to the end of this session?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, as far as I heard the question I can tell the House that I believe almost two years ago the federal government did make some propositions to the provincial governments regarding the administration and division of profits or revenues from the exploitation of offshore mineral rights. Since then there has been a very long series of consultations with the provinces. There has been some progress, but I think it is fair to say that many provinces have not yet stated their position clearly. Therefore we cannot introduce any legislation until we know the final position taken by the provinces on this matter.