[*English*]

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, this report related to conditions some years ago. It has been reviewed recently by the department. While I have no objections to an inquiry, I would be very happy to answer questions arising out of that report to satisfy the hon. member that there is in fact no discrimination and that in particular the Department of External Affairs practises the principle of bilingualism at least as effectively as any other department.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

ALLEGED MISLEADING ADVERTISING BY IMPERIAL TOBACCO COMPANY

Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): My question is directed to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. However, in his absence may I be permitted to direct it to his Parliamentary Secretary. I might add that I have given the minister notice of this question.

Will the minister undertake to investigate the misleading and probably fraudulent advertising by the Imperial Tobacco Company with respect to its Casino brand cigarettes marketed in Canada, indicating that prizes in amounts from $5 to as much as $100 are contained in every package? Would he also check with the residents of the Smoky Lake district in Alberta, where some citizens are claiming winnings of $20,000 to $30,000 as a result of participating in this Casino game, and the fact that Imperial Tobacco now refuses to honour such claims?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think this is a question which should normally be put on the Order Paper. If there is urgency, the hon. member may suggest that it be considered at the time of adjournment.

Mr. Mazankowski: I rise on a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker. May I say with all due respect that I think this is a matter of urgency. Imperial Tobacco has claimed in its advertising promotion that every package of Casino cigarettes contains a voucher worth as much as $100, and in light of the refusal by the Imperial Tobacco Company to honour—

Mr. Speaker: Order. That is hardly a question of privilege. If the hon. member is convinced that this is a matter of urgency, the question can be considered at the time of adjournment.

[Mr. Asselin.]

Mr. Mazankowski: Ten o'clock, Mr. Speaker.

NATIONAL FILM BOARD

LAY-OFFS OF EMPLOYEES—CHARGES FOR USE OF FILMS

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): I would like to direct a question to the Secretary of State. When will he be prepared to make the statement which he promised some time ago would be made today dealing with the situation at the National Film Board?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): I think, Mr. Speaker, that the hon. member is mistaken. I have never undertaken to make a statement today. I said that the unbiased person appointed to review some decisions made by the authorities of the National Film Board would submit his report on the 15th. I know that it has been handed to the Board Commissioner and it is up to him to forward it to me. I have never undertaken to make a statement today, and it would have been very unwise for me to do so, because I knew beforehand that I would not have any information on the matter before tomorrow.

[*English*]

Mr. Orlikow: I am sorry I made a mistake, but in view of the great interest throughout the whole country, would the minister give consideration to making a statement on the situation at an early date?

[*Translation*]

Mr. Pelletier: Mr. Speaker, once I have read the report, I will be able to see whether it is advisable to make a statement.

[*English*]

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Secretary of State. In view of the CRTC's decision on cablevision, cutting off many communities in Canada from access to American T.V. culture, and the NFB's decision cutting off many isolated communities, in the main, from Canadian film culture, when the minister makes a statement would he indicate what action he is planning to take to fill this void?

[*Translation*]

Mr. Pelletier: Mr. Speaker, I do not agree with the second premise of the question. How can the hon. member express the opinion that the situation at the National Film Board is