

Inquiries of the Ministry

the minister announce which will lessen the "distinct cleavage" which Quebec revenue minister Eric Kierans says exists between the federal government's international policies at the political level and the economic policies now being pursued by the government?

Mr. Gordon: I have not seen this statement, Mr. Speaker. I would like to study it before I try to deal with a general statement of that kind.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a further supplementary question. As the hon. gentleman has given the house the assurance that he has not seen this statement—it is on the front page of all the papers—I might read it and ask whether he agrees with it:

Mr. Kierans said the federal government's application of withholding taxes and depreciation allowances "is going to get us into trouble".

"For one thing it is going to invite retaliatory action by the United States government", he declared.

I ask the minister, does he agree with that statement from this colourful character whom he derogated a few months ago?

Mr. Gordon: Mr. Speaker, I read the *Globe and Mail* this morning, and that was one of the papers that did not, as far as I recall, carry that statement on its front page.

An hon. Member: You don't read the right papers.

Mr. Gordon: I thought the right hon. gentleman said "all the papers". In any event, I think that interpretation as reported is highly—

Mr. Mandziuk: Correct.

Mr. Gordon: —exaggerated.

AGRICULTURE AND COLONIZATION**LACK OF INTERPRETERS—LATE RECEIPT OF COMMITTEE REPORTS**

On the orders of the day:

[*Translation*]

Mr. Raymond C. Langlois (Megantic): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege regarding what is taking place at the committee on agriculture which held a sitting this morning. I would also ask the Secretary of State to make representations to you concerning the lack of interpreters and the delay in publishing the French report of proceedings.

Mr. Speaker, the hon. members for Roberval and for Kamouraska, who sit on this committee, are not too familiar with the English language and would like to have an interpreter attend the sittings, if possible, in order to provide simultaneous translation.

[**Mr. Fairweather.**]

[*Text*]

This is a question we have discussed before, Mr. Speaker, and I know it may be embarrassing at times when there are not enough interpreters to cover so many committees sitting at the same time. However, I ask the Secretary of State to get one for this afternoon if possible, since these two gentlemen will probably be attending that committee again. They sat there not understanding a single word. We were talking about sales of grain in eastern Canada and they did not understand what we were talking about. They will only find out in two weeks time when the report will probably be submitted. This is my question of privilege, and I wonder whether the Secretary of State has something to say.

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I regret very much that this situation has arisen on several occasions during the present session. Part of the reason, of course, is that there are so very many committees sitting at the same time and there is only limited personnel. I am sure that Your Honour and the officers at the table, having heard the hon. gentleman's point, will do their utmost to see that the situation is improved just as far as it can be humanly done with the number of officials that are available. Personally I regret very much that we do not have more people to do this work of interpretation and translation. I have made repeated representations in many quarters to get the staff strengthened in order to do this work adequately. I repeat the invitation I have extended before, that if anyone knows any competent translator who would like a job, I wish he would give his name to the chairman of the civil service commission right away.

Mr. R. W. Prittie (Burnaby-Richmond): I should like to ask the Secretary of State if he is aware that some of these committees could have been meeting two months ago and thus avoid all this rush at the end of the session.

Mr. Pickersgill: No, sir, I am not.

Mr. Langlois: I may not be considered competent, but if I may be of help to the government this afternoon I am quite willing to do so without pay, Mr. Speaker.

LABOUR CONDITIONS**REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF INCENTIVE TRAINING PROGRAM FOR OLDER WORKERS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Labour regarding the older workers