

Inquiries of the Ministry

PROGRAM FOR HIRING OF FRANCOPHONE UNIVERSITY GRADUATES—RESPONSIBILITY FOR AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURE OF MONEY

Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond): I have a supplementary question for the minister and I hope he does not have to struggle with this one. Who, outside of the Treasury Board has the authority to authorize the \$2 million?

Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board): It is only the parliament of Canada that can authorize the \$2 million.

Mr. Speaker: I appreciate that five or six members are rising on supplementary questions. The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre.

PROGRAM FOR HIRING OF FRANCOPHONE UNIVERSITY GRADUATES—RECONCILIATION BETWEEN MINISTER'S STATEMENT AND TABLING OF MEMORANDUM

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question to the President of the Treasury Board is based on the answer the Acting Prime Minister gave me yesterday when he said yes to my question as to whether we would be given a reconciliation between the statement made by the President of the Treasury Board, in which he denied the existence of a program, and the fact that a copy of the memorandum has now been tabled.

Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, the only problem there is to try to reconcile the words "memorandum" and "program". There is a memorandum which is before the House. There is no program, and there will not be a program until such time as formal approval has been given to a proposal. This is a step in the gestation of a proposal, and until it becomes approved it is not a program.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Did the minister know of the existence of the memorandum when he was interviewed about this matter over the weekend?

Mr. Drury: Regrettably no, Mr. Speaker.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

[Translation]

PROGRAM FOR HIRING OF FRANCOPHONE UNIVERSITY GRADUATES—CONSULTATION WITH LANGUAGE COMMISSIONER

Mr. Speaker: Does the hon. member for Champlain wish to ask a supplementary question?

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): Yes, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the minister if the Official Languages Commissioner has been consulted and has told the government what he thinks about it.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please! I am not sure whether this question was heard.

[Mr. Speaker.]

[Translation]

I am not sure that the Acting Prime Minister or any other minister has heard the question put by the hon. member for Champlain. Would the hon. member ask his question again?

Mr. Matte: Certainly, Mr. Speaker.

I would merely like the minister to tell the House whether the Commissioner of Languages has made recommendations to the government in this regard.

[English]

Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, not to my knowledge. I would think that this would tend to fall a little outside his particular jurisdiction as he is concerned with the use of French within the Public Service, not the means by which it is achieved.

PROGRAM FOR HIRING OF FRANCOPHONE UNIVERSITY GRADUATES—SPECIAL EFFORTS TO HIRE NATIVE INDIANS

Mr. Len Marchand (Kamloops-Cariboo): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the President of the Treasury Board. It arises out of the answer he gave to the Leader of the Opposition. Does this mean that special efforts on the part of the Public Service Commission to hire native Indians have been abandoned?

Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board): No, Mr. Speaker, by no means.

PROGRAM FOR HIRING OF FRANCOPHONE UNIVERSITY GRADUATES—ASSURANCE THAT CONTINGENCY VOTE WILL NOT BE USED WITHOUT ADVISING HOUSE

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the President of the Treasury Board. Would the minister give the House the assurance that the money for this program would not be taken from the contingency vote, No. 5, without first advising the House?

Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board): I most certainly can give that assurance, Mr. Speaker.

PROGRAM FOR HIRING OF FRANCOPHONE UNIVERSITY GRADUATES—GRANT TO TRAINING SCHOOL IN FRANCE—UNEMPLOYMENT IN CANADA

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question on this subject. It has to do with the training of Francophones. Has the government come to the conclusion that there are not enough people speaking the French language in Canada and that it has become necessary to go outside of Canada and, by a \$1 million grant, establish a public service training school in Bordeaux, France, to graduate Francophones who will be given an opportunity to work in Canada? Did the minister know about that? Is he aware of that fact, and is there not enough unemployment here without going abroad and spending a million dollars?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.