

Statistics Canada

been made by Mr. Celovsky which have appeared in the press and of others relate not only to the question of the technical aspect of the work of Statistics Canada, but also to the personnel practices of Statistics Canada.

Given that there is this overlap between these two inquiries, the Price Waterhouse inquiry and the inquiry of Mr. Newcombe, what guarantees have the employees of Statistics Canada that there will not be an unfair leapfrogging, if you like, going from one commission to another, in an attempt to achieve some kind of redress? What means do we have to guarantee that there will not be an unfair abuse of the inquiry process into Statistics Canada?

I think that this is a legitimate concern, that there should be one inquiry, that it be limited in time, and that the report be objective, rather than having a series of inquiries of an ongoing nature and a number of allegations which, I would suggest, have no end unless there is a clear summing up. I think it would be easier to have one commission.

Mr. Stevens: Mr. Speaker, assuming that that was a question—

Mr. Rae: There was a question mark in there at one point.

Mr. Stevens:—I will try to reply. I think we are dealing with two different perspectives. It sounds as though the concerns of the hon. member are exactly our concerns. That is the reason we felt that we should allow the Price Waterhouse study to go on in the normal way, that such management consultant studies would be expected to carry on regardless of the nature of the company, be it Statistics Canada or some other type of business organization.

With regard to Mr. Celovsky, we felt that it was very important that we get somebody from the legal profession to hear him out as to the nature of his allegations and what the commissioner's feelings are. We are saying, almost contrary to what the hon. member is worried about, that by separating the two we hope to get to the substance of it. Or as I say in the statement, we hope the commissioner will help us dispose of Mr. Celovsky's observations one way or the other. Once we have his report I think we will know where and how to act. In the meantime, that should not in any way clutter up the ongoing study of Price Waterhouse and their report, which should be in my hands in the early part of February.

● (1600)

Mr. Lefebvre: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the minister. I was not able to follow all the debate after his statement but I understood that one of the reports referred to was available in only one of Canada's official languages. The minister promised to table one of the reports he referred to. I should like him to ask for unanimous consent of the House if he intends to table any document which is available in only one of Canada's official languages, and that he ask that it be made an appendix to today's *Hansard* so that tomorrow everyone can read it in either or both of Canada's official languages.

[Mr. Rae.]

Mr. Stevens: Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member indicated, he did not hear the whole debate. I had mentioned at one juncture that, much to my surprise, the document I intended to table had been delivered, for translation reasons, in one language. Rather than wait and table it tomorrow or to ask the unanimous consent of the House to table it in only one language, I chose to read it into the record. So it can be seen tomorrow in *Hansard*.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The document that the hon. President of the Treasury Board referred to was, I believe, some report which I am sure would be in existence, because there was another reference. Perhaps that should be cleared up before we close the matter. The President of the Treasury Board undertook to table a report; was that another document?

Mr. Stevens: Yes, Mr. Speaker. If I may, I should like to clarify that. The initial document which I was unable to table today is called, "Terms of Reference of the Ministerial Inquiry into Statistics Canada".

Mr. Lefebvre: That is what I meant.

Mr. Stevens: That is what I read into the record. The second document or report that I referred to was in answer to the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre, which deals with the possibility of having a CPI come out in relation to the cost of living, more accurately expressed for older people in the country.

Mr. Knowles: Does the minister have that?

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PETITION

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT—POSITION PRESENTED BY
RIVIÈRE-VERTE, NEW BRUNSWICK, WORKERS

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that the Clerk of the House has laid upon the table the third report of the Clerk of Petitions stating that he has examined the petition presented by the hon. member for Madawaska-Victoria (Mr. Corbin) and finds that it meets the requirements of the Standing Orders as to form.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Eymard Corbin (Madawaska-Victoria): Mr. Speaker, under the provisions of Standing Order 67(8), I ask that the text of the petition be now read by the Clerk of the House.

[*English*]

Mr. Speaker: The request made by the hon. member is in keeping with our practice under the Standing Order that he cited.

[*Editor's Note: The Clerk Assistant read the petition to the House, which reads as follows:*]