

**Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I do not think I have received any such representations in the past 10 or 15 days, although the matter was raised by Premier Bourassa at the first ministers' conference when speaking to me.

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### EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

#### ISRAELI-ARAB CONFLICT—CANADIAN REPRESENTATIONS ON ACHIEVING OF AGREEMENT

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert):** My question is directed to the Acting Prime Minister. It concerns the perilous situation in the Middle East which has worsened in the last few days. Would the Acting Prime Minister tell us what representations Canada is making, or has made, particularly to Egypt but also to Israel with a view to bringing about some agreement?

[Translation]

**Mr. André Ouellet (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, the Canadian government—

[English]

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to a minister and I have the right to be answered by a minister and not by a parliamentary secretary. If the minister cannot answer me, he can give an answer next week. Parliamentary secretaries are not for the purpose of answering questions that deserve the attention of ministers who travel all over Africa profli-gately spending Canadian money.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

[Translation]

**Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the President—

**Mr. Ouellet:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I apologize to the member for Joliette. The Parliamentary Secretary is rising on a point of order.

**Mr. Ouellet:** Mr. Speaker, there is no provision in the Standing Orders which prevents a parliamentary secretary from answering members of the opposition.

I would have been in a position to reply to the right hon. member, but if he wishes to await the minister's return from a very successful trip to Africa, the latter will be here on Monday and in a position to answer the right hon. member if he really cares to get an answer.

[English]

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** I want responsible answers from ministers, not from irresponsible secretaries.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

### Inquiries of the Ministry

[Translation]

### BILINGUALISM AND BICULTURALISM

#### FINAL REPORTS OF COMMISSION

**Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette):** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Prime Minister, I would like to put a question to the President of the Treasury Board.

I shall refer to the letter of Messrs. Dunton and Gagnon of the Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism in which this is clearly stated:

We hope the government will be in a position to encourage the continuation of studies on fundamental problems of the Canadian duality.

Can the minister say today whether the government intends to make arrangements for the continuation of those studies and for the presentation of a report to the House?

**Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, we have not reached any final decision up to now, but the hon. member may rest assured that any decision will be announced in this House.

[English]

#### DEFINITION OF TERMS "FRANCOPHONE" AND "ANGLOPHONE" AS APPLIED TO PUBLIC SERVICE

**Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley):** Mr. Speaker, I have a related question on this subject which should perhaps be addressed to the President of the Treasury Board or Acting Prime Minister. In view of the conflicting statements yesterday in connection with the definition of "Francophone", the statement made by the Prime Minister in the House on February 2, who said it was not based on racial origin, and the statement by the Secretary of State, who has the responsibility for implementing the government's policy, that it does depend on the mother tongue, would the Acting Prime Minister be prepared to tell us what the policy of the government is on this very interesting and topical subject?

**Hon. C. M. Drury (Acting Prime Minister):** I would prefer, given a preference, that this debate be conducted in the committee rather than on the floor of the House, but I think it is well understood that the term "Francophone" or "Anglophone" refers to the origin of the mother tongue of members of the two large linguistic communities in the country.

[Translation]

**Mr. La Salle:** I have a supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to ask the minister whether the policy aimed at creating a balance between Francophones and Anglophones in the public service in the next few years has been suggested, in view of the reports of the Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism.

**Mr. Drury:** Mr. Speaker, in all policy-making, we have taken into account the recommendations of that Commission.