

Inquiries of the Ministry

were not sure just how much they would want to deliver. This is a problem which has arisen year after year and there is no way of avoiding it, but I can assure the hon. member that the Canadian wheat board as well as the railway companies are working as hard as they can to see that as much grain as possible is moved out of the west before the end of the year.

Mr. Watson (Assiniboia): I realize what the situation is on the Sault line in particular, but I wonder if the minister could talk to the railway companies and use his influence to have them concentrate on the areas which are having the big crop so as to help alleviate storage problems for the farmers in those places. I might perhaps tell the minister that the majority of the farmers concerned knew what the situation would be, and that the principal problem for some time has been the availability of box cars.

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, I would be very happy to do what I can to alleviate the situation.

ARTS, LETTERS AND SCIENCES**MODIFICATION OF INSTRUCTIONS TO
ROYAL COMMISSION**

On the orders of the day:

[*Translation*]

Mr. L. J. Pigeon (Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Associate Minister of National Defence.

In view of the confusion created by the answer given to the house yesterday by the Associate Minister of National Defence, does he intend to recommend to the government the amendment of the terms of reference of the royal commission on bilingualism and biculturalism, so that the commission will determine the areas in Canada where it is logical to put bilingualism into practice at the federal administration level?

Hon. Lucien Cardin (Associate Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, this affords me the opportunity to tell my hon. friend that he does not have the monopoly of interest and concern in this house for the province of Quebec and the French fact.

It seems to me that following the statements and the speeches just made by the leaders of the four political parties on the rather serious and dangerous problem of racial strife in the world, my hon. friend might show less chauvinism. I do not suggest

that bilingualism does not raise any problems in Canada. As a matter of fact, there are some problems. But it is not by raising the same questions over again, which only embarrass everybody without settling anything, that those problems will be solved.

In my opinion there are places in Canada where bilingualism should be practised more than it is. I am working toward the solution of that problem.

On the other hand there are also problems in other places where spoken French is non-existent. In those circumstances I feel it does not make sense to use bilingual signs if there is nobody to read them.

Bilingualism, in my opinion, is a two way street. It concerns not only those who speak French but also those who speak English.

Bilingualism in Canada is an important matter. However, I am quite convinced that we will not solve that problem by indulging in petty politics.

Mr. Pigeon: Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a supplementary question to the Associate Minister of National Defence—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Pigeon: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege.

Mr. Speaker: If it is on the same subject, all right.

Mr. Pigeon: I rise on a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker, following the remark made about me by the Associate Minister of National Defence when he said that I was being chauvinistic in asking the type of questions I have to ask in the house. To begin with, Mr. Speaker, I want to point out to him that there are French Canadian minorities in every province in Canada. If he wishes to be logical, he should ask both his colleagues and the government to be less hypocritical and to take action instead of spending half a million dollars on a commission of inquiry on bilingualism and biculturalism.

Mr. Cardin: Mr. Speaker, I agree that there are French speaking minorities in the other provinces but what I mean is this. I fail to see the purpose of putting up bilingual signs in those places or those provinces where there are no French Canadians.

Mr. Pigeon: On the wrong track as usual.

[*Text*]

Mr. Speaker: At this point may I suggest that we go to orders of the day.