

that it is noted in the Spicer report that tremendous progress has been made in recent years with respect to bilingualism in the Public Service.

[English]

Mr. Clark: I believe the House would be anxious to see the Bibeau report referred to a committee in addition to the report of the Commissioner of Official Languages, rather than merely being tabled here. Will the President of the Treasury Board give us a commitment that both of these reports will be referred to a committee either of this House or of the two Houses for consideration?

[Translation]

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, I have already been questioned on this subject this week before our Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Estimates. I have answered many questions. I am ready to answer any question on those two reports, if necessary, and we will find whether it is necessary to take more specific action with regard to Messrs. Spicer's and Bibeau's reports.

[English]

Mr. Clark: Members on this side of the House share with the hon. member for Maisonneuve-Rosemont the view that it is not enough simply to have the opportunity to question the minister on these matters. It is far preferable to have the reports themselves referred and become the subject of joint study. I hope that the minister might follow that bipartisan suggestion.

ALLEGED UNDER-UTILIZATION OF FRENCH BY EMPLOYEES GRADUATING FROM TRAINING SCHOOLS

Mr. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): I should like to ask the minister this question. Having regard to the reference in the report of the Commissioner of Official Languages to the fact that 83 per cent of Anglophone graduates from public service schools utilize French on the job less than 20 per cent of the time, is the minister prepared to make a full statement to the House regarding the serious allegation of an extraordinary under-utilization of bilingual graduates, as suggested by the Commissioner of Official Languages?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, of course it is very difficult to make the best use of the services in the other language of all those who work in Ottawa. The hon. Leader of the Opposition speaks French very well, but he does not have the opportunity to use it often, so we will have to get the whole system to use both languages as often as possible. I am glad to see that the hon. Leader of the Opposition wants French to be much more widely used in Ottawa.

IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATION OF COMMISSIONER—CONSULTATIONS WITH PROVINCES ON LANGUAGE TEACHING

Mr. Claude Wagner (Saint-Hyacinthe): Mr. Speaker, I want to ask a question of the leader of the government.

While recognizing that until now the bilingualism program has been reasonably successful, is the government

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giving serious consideration to the recommendations of the Commissioner of Official Languages which say that we should prepare a generation of bilingual Canadians before they enter the public service?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, of course we are considering that. It is not only a wish we have expressed, but also something we have told the provinces at various meetings, namely the ones on the constitution, when we were talking about bilingualism. As a matter of fact, many members on both sides of this House wish that the educational system of the provinces would give Canadians more fluency in both official languages. It is our wish, Mr. Speaker. I rather think that this recommendation is addressed to the provincial governments, which are primarily responsible for education.

Mr. Wagner: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary and I thank the Prime Minister for his remarks.

While keeping in mind the question of jurisdiction, would the Prime Minister tell the House if, during the first ministers conference in May, he has the intention of discussing these new propositions concerning the teaching of languages to young Canadians with the heads of the provincial governments?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, the agenda of that conference has yet to be established, but if the provinces want to discuss the subject I would be very anxious to do so myself. Generally speaking, however, such subjects are dealt with during meetings between the provincial ministers of education and the Secretary of State who has been appointed by the government to spend the funds for promoting the teaching of the other official language in each province.

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[English]

NATIONAL DEFENCE

LOCKHEED CONTRACT—GOVERNMENT PROPOSALS TO BANKS ON FINANCING—ALTERNATIVES OPEN TO GOVERNMENT

Mr. Stuart Leggatt (New Westminster): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Defence. An announcement this morning indicated that the option on the Lockheed Orions had been extended for one month. Presumably, therefore, arrangements with respect to financing have not been worked out. The minister indicated to the House yesterday that the arrangements that are being proposed to Canadian banks do not mean a guarantee of any loans that those banks may put up to the Lockheed Corporation. In view of the importance of this matter would the minister advise the House specifically what it is that the government is proposing to Canadian banks and financial institutions to encourage them to take a risk which, in normal circumstances, they would not take?

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, it is correct that my colleague the Minister of Supply and Services has done an excellent job in obtaining an option for the government to continue negotiations until April 30. The discussion with the banks