

*National Gallery*

the knowledge which obviously the new director could bring to this situation.

**Mr. R. W. Prittie (Burnaby-Richmond):** I have a brief comment on the same subject. The position of director of the National Gallery has been vacant since last July. There is nothing wrong with that; it takes time to find the right person for such a position, a person with good academic qualifications as well as the administrative gifts necessary for the running of a large organization.

Dr. Boggs appears to be very well qualified academically, and the fact that for four years she was curator of the Toronto Art Gallery does demonstrate her administrative ability. I have looked over the curriculum vitae. The new director has an impressive list of publications to her credit. It was interesting to hear the minister say that she is the first lady to be appointed to a federal position in Canada carrying a status equivalent to that of a deputy minister. Perhaps we shall see more of such appointments in the future. We welcome the appointment of Dr. Boggs. She seems to be well qualified to undertake the large task which is to be done at the gallery.

[Translation]

**Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve):** Mr. Speaker, I wish personally and on behalf of my group to congratulate Miss Boggs on her appointment as director of the National Gallery of Canada.

According to the information given by the hon. minister, Miss Boggs is fully qualified for this position.

Now, I should like to know whether, in appointing Miss Boggs, the Civil Service Commission and the Board of Directors of the National Gallery also considered the bicultural character of our country.

The National Gallery of Canada is not meant only for a small part of the country but for the whole of Canada. This is very important, since the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson) has been saying for some years that we should always take into account the bicultural character of our country. Is the new director perfectly bilingual? Does she speak French as fluently as English? It would be worthwhile to give the house this information when such an appointment is made.

Did the Civil Service Commission take this into account? There is no doubt whatsoever that Miss Boggs is fully qualified, but what if

[Mr. Fairweather.]

there were others, equally qualified but bilingual? On the other hand, if Miss Boggs is bilingual, I should like to be the first to congratulate her and to support her appointment to a position on the same level as that of deputy minister.

Mr. Speaker, these are the few comments I wished to make on the occasion of this appointment by the Civil Service Commission announced by the hon. Secretary of State (Miss LaMarsh). It would be important and interesting to know whether the bicultural character of Canada was considered before this appointment was made. I should like the hon. minister to give us information on this subject.

[English]

**Mr. Howard Johnston (Okanagan-Revelstoke):** The hon. minister will have noticed that the comments on her statement were delayed; that once more art in Canada had to give way to politics.

**An hon. Member:** Explain.

**Mr. Johnston:** I do not think any explanation is necessary. With regard to the hon. lady's announcement I should like to say this. Bearing in mind that the greatest single genius produced in the ranks of Canadian artists—I am speaking of the visual arts—may well have been Emily Carr of British Columbia, we join in welcoming the announcement that Dr. Jean Sutherland Boggs has been appointed director of the National Gallery. We will expect that under her direction the National Gallery will break new ground, as does her appointment. We also hope that her tenure will not be shortened by the hesitancy and delay which have characterized this government in its approach to necessary legislation, or by its failure to provide the gallery and its director with an adequate budget.

#### DOMINION-PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE

##### TABLING OF CORRESPONDENCE WITH PROVINCES

**Mr. John R. Matheson (Parliamentary Secretary to Prime Minister):** I wish to ask leave of the house to table the correspondence exchanged with the provinces respecting the forthcoming federal-provincial conference.

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon):** Does this correspondence include the letters written by the