Bilingual Districts

hon. member might have a question if he does not rise. I am not sure the hon. member for Laprairie did rise from his seat before lunch. Mr. Speaker mentioned to me that four hon. members had risen and had not been recognized before one o'clock. He put those names on a list and, of course, the name of the hon. member for Timiskaming (Mr. Peters) was included.

The hon. member stood up, but if he thinks that any time he stands the Speaker will go to him immediately, let me point out that it is the prerogative of the Speaker to recognize hon. members in due course when he feels it is fair to recognize them. The hon. member yielded to the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles), and that was his decision. As far as the reflection on the Chair is concerned, I do not accept it, and I would hope the hon. member would at least modify it or put it in other words

Some hon. Members: Withdraw.

Mr. Peters: Mr. Speaker, I agree that we should not make suggestions reflecting on the Chair, but I had the floor and therefore did not have to yield to anyone. I called it one o'clock. What surprises me, Mr. Speaker, is that some occupants of the chair either do not know the rules or they misunderstand—

Some hon. Members: Order, order.

Mr. Peters: —my relationship, and this had bothered me on a number of occasions.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Peters: Members in certain parts of the House are amused by this, but I personally am not. If I made a reflection in respect of the Chair, Mr. Speaker, I withdraw that reflection, but the other remarks stand.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. As a means of explaining, perhaps I might say I was not here at one o'clock and the hon. member's name was on my list as number three.

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Acting President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Drury). From the report, it seems now agreed that there is no call for establishing bilingual districts in the province of British Columbia. Now that it has been recognized that there is no call to create such bilingual districts in British Columbia, I wonder whether the Acting President of the Treasury Board could indicate that the tower which was being erected for the creation of a French language television station in British Columbia is now to be dismantled or put up for auction to anyone else who wishes to use it.

Mr. Drury: Mr. Speaker, I have not received any advice from the CBC on this, so I cannot answer the question. I would suggest to the hon. gentleman that his questions about bilingual districts and the provision of services in two languages by the broadcasting corporation are really not related. The radius of action in respect of the population to be served by a radio or television station is quite different from the radius of action and service to be pro-

vided to the constituents through a particular government office.

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): You wait and see.

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I have one question of the hon. gentleman about the statement he made regarding the fact that the government did not intend to increase any expenditures as a result of the creation of bilingual districts. How is the capability of providing services in two languages to be established—by training, by transfer, or by recruitment? If it is one of those that is chosen, how can the minister justify the statement that there will be no additional expenses in respect of language training in order that public servants in Canada will be able to comply with the requirements of providing these services within the districts?

Mr. Drury: Mr. Speaker, obviously the training at public expense of these people in order that they shall have the additional capacity will cost money. This is additional to a régime under which there would be no training and where there would be no upgrading of that character. The statement I made qualifying the word "additional" was "additional budgetary expenditures". We have a plan, of which I think the hon. gentleman is aware, to train, to recruit and to otherwise give effect to the designation plan of the government that has been in existence for some time. What my statement was intended to do was make it quite clear that there will be no expansion and no increase in this plan as a consequence of the proclamation of bilingual districts.

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, does that mean, therefore, that the government's program, or the proposal before the government in respect of a pay differential of from 2 per cent to 15 per cent for those with the required language capability is not going to be used in respect of this particular program? Can the minister inform me whether it is the intention of the government now to proceed with that pay differential program?

Mr. Drury: Mr. Speaker, I cannot inform the hon. gentleman whether we will be proceeding with this plan or not. No decision has been taken on that particular topic. It will not, however, be as a consequence of or bear a direct relationship to the proclamation of bilingual districts.

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Thank you very much.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Orders of the day.

Mr. Watson: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I indicated that I had a question to ask with regard to this announcement today by the government.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Proceed.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I should just like to mention to the hon. member that I was ready to recognize him, but he should know the basic rule, that if he wants to be recognized in this House he has to stand in his place. The hon. member did stand after I had called orders of the day. However, I will recognize him, but I wish he would