

here I cannot verify it at the moment, that that has already been done. This is what I should like to look into and report upon on Monday.

EDUCATION

SUGGESTED ESTABLISHMENT OF ARBITRATION TRIBUNAL

On the orders of the day:

[*Translation*]

Mr. L. J. Pigeon (Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Justice concerning a matter which I believe comes under his department.

Does the government intend to implement the recommendation of the "Conseil de vie française" and appoint a conciliation board to settle school disputes regarding cultural matters between ethnic groups and provincial governments?

Hon. Guy Favreau (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, since this is a policy matter which the government will have to decide, it will be announced in due course.

[*Text*]

LABOUR RELATIONS

GREAT LAKES—STATEMENT BY CHAIRMAN RESPECTING ROLE OF TRUSTEES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. D. M. Fisher (Port Arthur): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Prime Minister a question. Has Mr. Justice Dryer, the chairman of the three man board of trustees handling the great lakes shipping problem, informed the government that the role of the board as a three man board is near an end?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Not to my knowledge, Mr. Speaker, but I will have to check with the Minister of Labour, who is not in the house today. If there is anything I can add I will be glad to do so.

REDISTRIBUTION

PROVISION FOR BOUNDARIES COMMISSIONS AND READJUSTMENT OF REPRESENTATION

The house resumed, from Thursday, April 16, consideration in committee of Bill No. C-72, to provide for the establishment of electoral boundaries commissions to report upon the readjustment of the representation of the provinces in the House of Commons and

Electoral Boundaries Commission

to provide for the readjustment of such representation in accordance therewith—Mr. Pickersgill (for Mr. Pearson)—Mr. Lamoureux in the chair.

On clause 6—*Appointment of chairman, etc.*

Mr. Pickersgill: I should like to make a few observations, Mr. Chairman, about the amendment which has been offered by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre. In order to recall the background, I would direct the attention of hon. members of the committee to the debate on second reading and to the observations I made in the course of that debate on the subject to which this clause relates. I am afraid I am about to bore the committee by repeating, because I think it is very important that the record should be absolutely accurate, the remarks I made which are recorded on page 741 of *Hansard* at the bottom of the first column and in the second column. I will try to read this as quickly as I can, because I know it is trying to have these things repeated, and still remain intelligible.

On that occasion, on March 10, I said this:

Next we came to the very difficult problem of determining the composition of the commissions.

I was assuming there, as the committee agreed last night after some thought, that there would be ten commissions.

I think I expressed the view, which I think the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre also expressed, although I am speaking from memory, and if I am wrong I should like to be corrected, that the experience in Manitoba with redistribution had been very satisfactory. In Manitoba the chief justice of the province, the president of the university and the chief electoral officer were designated in the legislation by office and not as persons. This produced a commission that commanded universal respect and confidence, and whose report was, I think, only altered with respect to one or two names.

I was referring there to the names of constituencies.

In every other respect it proved very satisfactory.

I must say that a good many of us racked our brains to see whether we could find people who, first, this parliament would have the right to designate. It is one thing for the provincial legislature to say that the chief electoral officer of the province should do something, but he is an officer of the province. We might achieve the same thing by getting their consent to it, but the parliament of Canada could not impose that duty upon him by naming his office; at least I would think it would be a very dubious proceeding to try.

However, I do not think that at all rules out the possibility that with the consent of a provincial government the person who occupies the position of chief electoral officer might serve, and serve very acceptably, on one of these commissions, or as far as that is concerned on all of them.