

Q. With regard to your figures on this return: how many civil servants were taken on in the last six months—that would be six months before the return—the figures given are 51 permanent and 50 non-permanent?—A. A good many of the 51 permanents would be replacements of people who had resigned from the temporary staff of the department. I could not give a breakdown on that. I think most of the 50 non-permanents would in due course become permanent as soon as we can get the mechanics to operate.

Mr. PICARD: I should like to ask a question about examinations. Is it the intention of the department to go back to the former system of having the various examinations so stiff that even the foreign secretary of many nations could not qualify? We used to get good men, we have the evidence of that in those who are in the department now, and I wish to pay a compliment to them; but I remember the time when we had 200 applicants and only 20 qualified and only 4 of the 20 were called in. I think at that time the examinations were much more restricted probably than they have been in the last year or two.

The WITNESS: I should not say that we would revert exactly to the pre-war system. I should hope not. That would be rather an urge to adhere to past practices in a changing world; but we will no doubt stiffen the examinations as we get further away from the particular problem of not imposing a handicap on those who have been in the armed services and are a long way away from school and university, so that they are not able to pass an examination which must inevitably be based on what I might call book learning.

Mr. PICARD: I think if we had to pass examinations to be able to sit on this committee, or even to be a minister of foreign affairs, some of the examinations I have read were so stiff I do not know who would pass. Remember it is all for the good of the service. I wondered if that was the practice, but I am satisfied with the answer.

*By Mr. Jaques:*

Q. Mr. Chairman, is there any notice taken of the applicant's political stripe? I do not mean whether he is a Liberal or a Conservative. This is a serious question. I do not mean party politics. It has been made abundantly clear that the Communists have declared that they have no loyalty to this country, and I think they should be absolutely barred from representing this country. What methods, if any, are now used to see that those who are in the service are loyal to Canada and not to Moscow? Certain things have been made so clear in the spy trials.—A. We certainly do not conduct any inquiries into the political opinions or the party affiliations of members of the service. I have no idea what way my colleagues in the department cast their votes.

Q. Neither did the Research Council. They had, perhaps, no idea what their employees were doing, but it seems to have been a disastrous policy.—A. I was going to add that in the course of investigating applicants we get references from a number of people who in most cases are fairly well known citizens and know the individual concerned, and where possible—and it usually is—we supplement this by private inquiries and we attempt at least to secure that those admitted to our service, in the words of Mr. Jaques, are loyal Canadian citizens. Beyond that I think it would be most unfair for us to conduct any investigation into political affiliations.

Q. Suppose it became known, and these things are known, that any employee in the Department of External Affairs had adopted Communism, would that affect his standing in the department; would he still continue to be employed?—A. It would certainly depend on how that was manifested. I do not want to enter into this is a burning situation in Canada at present—I think I would be speaking out of my role if I did—but if there is any possibility that this might lead the person concerned to depart from his oath of secrecy or in any way not to be a faithful and loyal member of the department, it would undoubtedly enter into our calculations.