

**Mr. Bell:** It is in limbo.

**Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the minister is not supposed to be in the house this morning, but he is supposed to be here on Monday. I wonder if the hon. member himself was here yesterday, because it is my recollection that the question was answered at that time.

**Some hon. Members:** No.

#### DOMINION-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS

##### CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE—ATTENDANCE OF PARTY OBSERVERS—POSITION PAPERS

**Mr. David Lewis (York South):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Prime Minister a question with regard to the forthcoming constitutional conference which is to open on February 10. I ask when we may expect advice as to observers at the conference from the various parties in this house. I gather the government party as well as opposition parties would be included. Also, when may we expect to have the federal position papers made public, so we might study them before the conference starts?

**Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** With regard to the observers, Mr. Speaker, a decision was reached for the December conference, and it is my recollection that the same decision will apply to this one. But I will check on that. On the second question, we have followed the same procedure as previously, that is, the previous date which was set. The secretariat has written to the provinces suggesting two dates, one for the publication of the report of the continuing committee of officials, and another for the publication of the position papers of the various governments. I have had no reply yet, but I know these letters were sent earlier this week or last week.

**Mr. Lewis:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Does the Prime Minister recall the dates which were suggested by the secretariat for those two matters?

**Mr. Trudeau:** In the case of the memoranda, or position papers, of the governments, yes; it is the Friday before the conference begins. We suggested this date because that was what had been agreed in December, namely the Friday before the conference began. Concerning the date of the continuing committee of officials, this technically is not a matter for the federal government but for the secretariat. I do believe, however, that they

#### *Inquiries of the Ministry*

suggested dates perhaps a week or five days previous to the papers of the respective governments, which would be the Monday before the Friday or something like that.

#### COMMUNICATIONS

##### NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN FRANCE AND QUEBEC RESPECTING SATELLITES

**Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister on one of the non-social aspects of the current Paris talks. Can he advise if the Canadian government is being kept informed of negotiations between the governments of France and Quebec respecting co-operation in communications satellites, and whether the Canadian government regards communications as an area covered by the so-called umbrella agreement of 1965?

**Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I would prefer that the Secretary of State for External Affairs be asked this question. I do not mind however giving the information as I know it. I do not believe we have been advised of the subject matters of the talks, but this is subject to check with the department. We are taking the position, or we are operating on the assumption, that they are only talks as covered by the umbrella agreement. The hon. member is also asking me, as a matter of opinion, whether communications would be covered by this agreement. It is my understanding that they would not, but once again this is just a tentative answer. This question would have to be asked of the minister, and he would have to take advice on it.

#### NATIONAL DEFENCE

##### DISCUSSIONS ON STRATEGY AND PROCUREMENT—TRAINING MANUALS

**Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Defence. On Wednesday last, in reply to a question asked by the hon. member for Malpeque (Mr. MacLean), the minister indicated that the chief of staff during his visit to France would be primarily interested in securing some training manuals in French which the Canadian Forces are trying to procure in Canada. I ask the minister whether these are Canadian manuals translated into the French language, or French manuals which will be used in the Canadian forces; and are they applicable to Canadian training methods?