

*Oral Questions*

another study into part-time work to balance off the information that was not available from the Wallace report. The Hon. Member is also aware that prorating may be beneficial in some areas, but prorating as per time would cause a reversal in some benefits that are already available to part-time workers, such as maternity leave and UI benefits.

## REQUEST FOR INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION

**Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister still has not answered my question. There has been study after study and commission after commission in the area of benefits for part-time workers. Is the Government willing to introduce legislation to provide benefits for part-time workers?

**Hon. Bill McKnight (Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, I am sure the Hon. Member is aware that there already are benefits. There are benefits of time for part-time workers, there are benefits there, and he knows there are some. The Hon. Member is also aware of the Wallace report which left a lot of very important questions unanswered. A study has just been completed by Labour Canada into the area of benefits for part-time workers. In due course we will be making a decision as to how we react to that need that is apparent.

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[Translation]

## TRADE

## REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION OF GUIDELINES GIVEN BY GOVERNMENT TO CANADIAN NEGOTIATING TEAM'S OFFICE

**Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister which concerns the Canadian negotiating team's office and equitable representation of women and Francophones within that office.

Some people are saying that the Government is dragging its feet, while others say it has failed to give the office appropriate directives with respect to person-years and staffing.

Could the Government inform the House why it failed to give such directives to this office?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, that was not the case, because I have personally, as well as through Mr. Tellier, the Cabinet Secretary, given specific directives to this office. Such directives of course reflected our very real desire to ensure that ultimately, this instrument would be an accurate reflection of our society, including, of course women and Francophones. A number of people were approached, but initially, certain people were obliged to decline. This of course in no way relieves those in charge of the office of their responsibility, since they received very specific directives from myself and Cabinet. I can assure the House that we will remedy the situation in the very near future.

[English]

## ROLE OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

**Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier):** The Reisman group negotiating on free trade fall under the laws that govern employment in the Public Service of Canada. Given that the Public Service Commission reports to Parliament and not to the Government, why did the Government fail to establish the basic requirements of any employer, that is person years, first of all, and how long the negotiations are going to last? Mr. Reisman could not operate otherwise. Why is the Government intervening now between an agent of Parliament—the Public Service Commission—and Mr. Reisman?

[Translation]

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** On the contrary, Mr. Speaker. I may point out to the Hon. Member that there is no question of intervening, except that the Prime Minister and his Cabinet colleagues have an obligation to ensure that such instruments accurately reflect the make-up of this country.

And in this undertaking as in any other, the make-up of the office will include a considerable number of Francophones and women, and thus be an accurate reflection of our society.

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[English]

## VISIBLE MINORITIES

## INTERNMENT OF JAPANESE CANADIANS DURING WORLD WAR II—REDRESS ISSUE

**Mr. Ernie Epp (Thunder Bay—Nipigon):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. The Minister of State for Multiculturalism last week used a private telegram to him from five Japanese Canadian individuals in Vancouver to suggest differences in the community in Vancouver and to create the sense of divisions in the Japanese Canadian community. Will the Prime Minister now recognize that his Multiculturalism Minister is out to sabotage the redress process, and will he appoint someone else to undertake the work of arriving at a redress agreement?

● (1500)

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, one of the quite regrettable events of the last Parliament and previous Parliaments was a formal declaration by the Liberal Party and the Liberal Government that they would not deal with the question of Japanese Canadian problems. That statement was made by the Liberal Government and it was a shame. It was a blot on the honour of Canada. With the co-operation of the House, we will make sure that that is corrected for the future.