

**Mr. Drury:** What is being sought here, as was recommended by the Royal Commission on Biculturalism and Bilingualism, is a higher proportion of those with a French-speaking background in the Public Service in Canada in relation to the current and past overwhelming majority of those with an English-speaking background.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I see there are many supplementaries. We have 40 minutes. We will start by recognizing the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands.

PROGRAM FOR HIRING OF FRANCOPHONE UNIVERSITY GRADUATES—PROVISION OF FUNDS—RESPONSIBILITY FOR INITIATING STUDY AND DRAFTING MEMORANDUM

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, perhaps I might get the minister away from a study of semantics and ask him a straight question. Was he familiar with the contents of this memorandum prior to its disclosure or was it issued without his knowledge and consent?

**Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, I was not familiar with the contents and it was issued without my knowledge. I would suggest that endeavours to conduct a feasibility study should not require the consent of the President of the Treasury Board.

**Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** Since the minister is President of the Treasury Board, may I ask whether the Public Service Commission, or whoever was responsible for formulating this memorandum, had authority to say that \$2 million would be made available for the purposes stated in the memorandum without the President of the Treasury Board having given his prior consent?

**Mr. Drury:** The memorandum, as I indicated to the Leader of the Opposition, is couched, at least in the opening phrases, in the conditional tense, as it should be. Perhaps there is a greater element of certainty in subsequent paragraphs which I do not think is warranted inasmuch as there is no approved program. Indeed, it has not yet been definitely ascertained that this proposal is feasible.

**Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** May I ask the minister, then, who is responsible for initiating this feasibility study and drafting this memorandum for distribution to the various departments without the knowledge and consent of the President of the Treasury Board?

**Mr. Drury:** I think it is well known that the government has indicated its desire to see a higher proportion than at present or in the past of Francophones in the Public Service.

**Some hon. Members:** Answer the question.

**An hon. Member:** Who did it?

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I do not think that this situation will be helped very much if the minister is not allowed to answer the question.

**Mr. Greene:** You want to play politics.

**Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** Who took the initiative?

**Mr. Drury:** I do not want to engage in some form of dialectics but I do want—

**Mr. Hees:** Just answer the question.

**Mr. Drury:**—the lack of comprehension to be cleared up. It is well known that the government has expressed its intention and desire to increase the proportion of Francophones in the Public Service.

**Mr. Hees:** You said that before.

**Mr. Drury:** To this end it is willing and has declared its willingness to devote additional resources toward the accomplishment of this purpose if satisfactory means are proposed to achieve this. The process we are looking at here is part of an exploration of possible means of achieving this purpose.

**Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** By whom?

**Mr. Drury:** It has long been the instruction of the government to proceed in this direction. The precise details of programs, their gestation, the examination of ways and means which would be feasible, are done, as they should be done, by those who are familiar in the field—the officials. They propose ways and means for approval by the government—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for Gander-Twillingate.

**Mr. Lundrigan:** My question is not a supplementary but a related question, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** I gather there are supplementary questions. Perhaps I might go to the hon. member's related question in a moment.

**Mr. Paul Yewchuk (Athabasca):** I have a brief supplementary question for the President of the Treasury Board. Would he mind giving us the government's official definition of the word "Francophone"?

**An hon. Member:** Good question.

**Mr. Greene:** Can't you afford a dictionary?

**Mr. Speaker:** I have the impression that perhaps it might be time to go on to another question, but the Chair has infinite patience this afternoon.