

Inquiries of the Ministry

treated equally. Parliament is above the officials. We have a mandate from the people and, therefore, we are responsible to the people and not to those who go about in the lobbies scribbling things down in notebooks.

[*English*]

An hon. Member: Have you got a spy in the press gallery or in the official gallery?

[*Translation*]

Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I have had the occasion not long ago to complain personally about the fact that I was spied upon too much and I understand perfectly the hon. member's feelings.

[*English*]

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Lancaster): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a supplementary question to the Prime Minister on this matter of attendance. Is the Prime Minister aware that the Minister of Finance is here today and he should not be, and did he give him permission?

An hon. Member: You are a naughty boy.

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

EARLY IMPLEMENTATION OF MEASURE— DISMISSAL OF COMMISSIONAIRES FROM MUSEUMS

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether the Clerk of the Privy Council last October, as has been revealed by the secretary general of the National Museum, issued a memorandum urging the early implementation of the terms of the official languages bill and, if so, under whose or what authority was this done?

Mr. Speaker: In view of the fact the hon. member is referring to an incident which is alleged to have happened last October I doubt whether there is urgency to the question. If there is urgency, and it is certainly not apparent to me, and if the Prime Minister feels it can be answered, I have no objection.

Mr. Dinsdale: Mr. Speaker, if this cannot be dealt with as a question on orders of the day, perhaps I could deal with it as a question of privilege. As we all know, the official languages bill has not yet been dealt with by this house, and if there are memoranda going out from official sources this must be under

somebody's authority, for it certainly does not have the authority of parliament.

Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, perhaps I could be helpful. After the official languages bill was introduced in this house for first reading in October the Clerk of the Privy Council under my authority did write to various departmental heads to suggest that, in keeping with the government's desire to plan ahead, they take certain preparatory steps toward the day when they would have to implement such an act. There was no direction given for any specific action, but just an indication that provisions should be under way, so that when action was required the departments would be in a position to take it.

Mr. Dinsdale: Mr. Speaker, the secretary general of the National Museum indicated that action was taken with reference to commissionaires.

Mr. Trudeau: That may have been the statement by the gentleman in question, but this was not under government direction.

INDIAN AFFAIRS

TABLING OF STANBURY-FIELD REPORT ON INDIAN TAXATION

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, my question relates to what is referred to as the Stanbury-Field report on taxation of native Indian people, and the reply which the minister gave the house on Tuesday last. The minister made reference to the fact that there are certain aspects of that report which relate to the confidential nature of taxation on individuals, and I am wondering whether he would be prepared to table in the house the documentation which authorized this study, its terms of reference, authority and the like?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I shall look into the matter and report to the house as soon as possible.

[*English*]

HEALTH AND WELFARE

STEPS TO RELIEVE MEDICAL MANPOWER SHORTAGE

Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask whether the Minister of National Health and Welfare has held any meetings with the provincial health ministers or the Canadian Medical Association