

POLICY RESPECTING UNILINGUAL EMPLOYEES  
—INTRODUCTION OF PROTECTIVE MEASURES IN ACT

**Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings):** May I ask whether the government has given consideration to introducing adequate protective measures into the Public Service Employment Act so as to ensure that the kind of protection which was envisaged for unilingual civil servants by the former Prime Minister would be guaranteed by the law and, if not, will the government give consideration to a proposal along these lines?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** I am not sure what type of guarantee the hon. member is suggesting. As he knows, the Act presently relating to the Public Service does give the commission authority to set certain standards in respect of residence, age, language qualifications, degrees, training, education and so on, and all these standards are being applied by the Public Service Commission along the lines upon which the commission has been operating in the past and along the lines of policy enunciated in the House.

**Mr. Hees:** As the chairman of the Public Service Commission has said, and I quote the words he used on television—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The hon. member knows he cannot quote the words. However, he can put the question in other terms.

**Mr. Hees:** I shall not quote, then. The chairman of the Public Service Commission said on television that the commission was not a creature of the government of the day, and gave a clear indication that he does not intend to follow the assurance given by Mr. Pearson in any way close to the letter of the law. I again ask the Prime Minister whether he will make sure that adequate protective measures are introduced into the Public Service Employment Act so as to provide that unilingual public servants are protected by law?

**Mr. Trudeau:** I do not see how the hon. member could argue that the Public Service Commission should be a creature of the government. Surely the relevant Act was set up in such a way as to ensure that the commission would be independent of the government of the day in order that it would not be obliged to hire or fire people on a patronage basis. This is the whole spirit of the Act. But, of course, the legislation has to be applied, within the rules of the Act itself, and along the lines determined from time to time by the

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government. The chairman of the Public Service Commission has taken a stand. Of course he cannot disregard the policy statements of the government, nor is he disregarding them.

**Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley):** Has the Prime Minister spoken to the chairman of the Public Service Commission and been assured that the no-prejudice policy laid down by Mr. Pearson and repeated by himself is to be the policy now?

**Mr. Trudeau:** No, Mr. Speaker, I have not spoken to him, I try to avoid interfering with the operations of the Public Service Commission. However, I have asked for a report on the subject and I am assured that nothing in either the acts or the words of the chairman of the commission represents a departure from government policy, perhaps with one minor exception when in response to a question on television the chairman said—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I am afraid the rule applies to both sides of the House.

POLICY RESPECTING UNILINGUAL EMPLOYEES  
—CONSULTATION BY TREASURY BOARD  
WITH COMMISSION ON SELECTION  
STANDARDS

**Mr. E. B. Osler (Winnipeg South Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Prime Minister. In view of the Public Service Appeal Board's finding that some conflict existed between government policy statements and the policies of the Public Service Commission, as documented in the *Globe and Mail* of July 15, 1970, has the Treasury Board any plans to call for consultation with the commission over selection standards, as it has the right to do under the Public Service Employment Act, section 12(3)?

**An hon. Member:** Put it on the Order Paper.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Yes, Mr. Speaker.

POLICY RESPECTING UNILINGUAL EMPLOYEES  
—HONOURING OF COMMITMENTS MADE  
IN HOUSE

**Mr. John L. Skoberg (Moose Jaw):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. Can the Prime Minister indicate whether or not commitments and statements made in this House while dealing with legislation are being honoured by the cabinet at this time?