

Oral Questions

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond): A further supplementary—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We have reached the end of the question period, but I shall allow the hon. member to ask a further supplementary and then allow the Solicitor General to reply to a question asked yesterday by the hon. member for Gander-Twillingate.

POSITION OF GOVERNMENT ON FEDERAL COURT
DECISION THAT FORCED RETIREMENT TANTAMOUNT TO
DISMISSAL

Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond): I have a further supplementary, Mr. Speaker, this time to the Minister of Justice. If there are such regulations left, why is it that the federal government did not appeal the decision of the Federal Court of Canada that the cabinet of Canada was acting beyond its jurisdiction and its statement that retirement before the normal age of 65 was tantamount to dismissal without cause? Why is it that the federal government, and now the President of the Treasury Board, tries to push down my throat and the throats of the people of this House—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. Solicitor General.

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AIRPORTS

SPECIAL SECURITY FORCE—PHASING OUT OF
COMMISSIONAIRES

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, yesterday the hon. member for Gander-Twillingate and the hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings asked certain questions about the new security forces at airports. The first training course for the new recruits in this force will commence in Regina on February 12, 1973 and will be completed on April 16, 1973. The people in that course will assume their duties immediately. New courses will be started after that and we hope to recruit 311 special constables in the year 1973-74 and 159 the following year. There are 180 commissionaires presently involved in work of this kind and they will be phased out over a three-year period. Some will be given other jobs in the service, some positions will be taken by attrition and others will be given a chance to apply for the job of special constable in the new force if they meet the standards.

Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. The minister has given us all kinds of assurance that they will be enabled to move into the special security forces. Can he give us the assurance that none of these people, all of whom are veterans and many of them disabled veterans who are unable to get other employment, will not lose their jobs as a result of this move?

Mr. Allmand: Mr. Speaker, it is my impression that none of them will be forced to lose their jobs. They will either retire in the usual course of events or be given other jobs

[Mr. Drury.]

or an opportunity to apply for the special force if they meet the standards.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day. The hon. member for Saint John-Lancaster is rising on a point of order.

Mr. Bell: Oh, well, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: The Chair was trying to be helpful. The hon. member might be asked to ask his question quickly provided he can get a quick answer.

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INCOME TAX

ALLEGED PRINTING ERRORS ON FORMS—DISTRIBUTION
OF FORMS TO TAXPAYERS

Mr. Tom Bell (Saint John-Lancaster): Mr. Speaker, this matter is of interest to everybody and is directed to the Minister of National Revenue. Have a very large number of income tax return forms been withdrawn because of printing errors and can the minister assure the House that the returns for individual taxpayers will go out on time?

Hon. Robert Stanbury (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, the answer to the first question is no and the answer to the second question is yes.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

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[Translation]

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON ADDRESS IN REPLY

The House resumed, from Thursday, January 11, consideration of the motion of Mr. J. J. Blais for an address to his Excellency the Governor General in reply to his speech at the opening of the session.

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I gladly fall into step with all those who congratulated you and I also want to congratulate the mover (Mr. Blais) and the seconder (Mr. Blaker) of the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne.

A song-writer who probably does not share my political views has written a very well-known song entitled "My contry is not a country, it's winter". Parodying Gilles Vigneault, I could say: "My country is not one country, it's five countries". But for those five countries to survive they must be integrated in such a way that they will make up what we call our country, Canada. However, it should never be forgotten—and it should be less and less so—that we actually have here five countries or five states.

• (1210)

More than ever, Mr. Speaker, the individual regions are becoming aware of their problems and difficulties and are seeking solutions not only at the regional but also at the national level. These economic difficulties prevailing in the various regions are aggravated by other problems