

Inquiries of the Ministry

session, and on that basis we might withdraw the second report.

Mr. McGrath: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, may I say that the house leader, in reply to my question, set himself up as an expert by ruling on a resolution which was passed by the committee, which the chairman of the committee accepted, and which is now properly in the report of the committee which is before the house. I suggest that the hon. gentleman has no right to take it upon himself to rule on a resolution passed by a majority in the committee.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, may I say, on the same point of order, that I accept the admonition of the hon. member, but I was only giving a ruling on the resolution because his friend from Calgary North asked me to do so. However, I agree that he was wrong to ask me and that I was wrong to do it.

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, I have a further supplementary question. In the house leader's discussion of the past and future activities of the committee would he indicate what is to be done with the estimates of the Post Office Department?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): I understand arrangements have been made to try to get the estimates examined in committee in the near future, but I must say I have not been able to follow in detail the present status of all estimates in the committees. I will have to take a further look at that.

[*Translation*]

PUBLIC SERVICE**DISMISSAL OF COMMISSIONAIRES FOR LANGUAGE REASONS**

On the orders of the day:

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister.

In view of the consequences of the rule to the effect that members of the Canadian Corps of Commissionaires who are not bilingual are to be replaced in the three Ottawa museums on December 31, would the Prime Minister be ready to make an exception for veterans who will reach retirement age shortly?

Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, as everyone knows, national museums come under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of State, who would be happy to

[*Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale).*]

answer this question if it were directed to him.

[*English*]

Mr. Paul Yewchuk (Athabasca): I have a supplementary question for the Prime Minister. Is the replacement of the 10 to 15 civil service commissionaires by bilingual persons a sample of future policy which will affect the federal civil service?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I merely wish to say that I can hardly be asked to state whether or not this is the policy because, as I said in my answer to the previous question, this matter comes under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of State. I am not familiar with the details of it; it is the Secretary of State who will have to report on it.

Mr. McGrath: Why not say "ditto"?

Mr. Jack McIntosh (Swift Current-Maple Creek): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In the name of justice and of former commitments to these veterans, will the Prime Minister give consideration to rescinding or withdrawing that directive which emanated from the office of the Secretary of State?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. It seems to me the hon. member is restating the question asked previously by the hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway.

Mr. Yewchuk: I have a further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Will alternative employment be provided to these replaced commissionaires?

Mr. Trudeau: I would like to make it clear, as I did in my first answer, that this matter comes under the Secretary of State who is not in the house now. I am not familiar with the details of the matter, so there is no point in my trying to answer the question.

Mr. McIntosh: I'll bet you don't know the details of it.

Mr. Trudeau: How much do you bet?

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, on this important matter. When discussing this question with the Secretary of State, would the Prime Minister confirm—and he might consult the Minister of Veterans Affairs on this matter as well—whether the veterans preference still applies?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I will ask the Secretary of State to have those consultations.