

representatives of the civil service associations, can he say whether this means that the government has made a decision on bilingualism in the public service, and can he indicate when an announcement regarding this matter will be made to the house?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the meeting this afternoon is for the purpose of receiving the views of officers of civil service organizations in respect of this very important matter.

Mr. Starr: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Will the Prime Minister answer the latter part of my question? Has the government made a decision on bilingualism and when will an announcement be made in this regard to the house?

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, no final decision will be made until we have received and considered the views of these representatives. When a decision is made it will be announced to the house.

LABOUR CONDITIONS

REPORTED LAY-OFFS IN MACHINE TOOL INDUSTRY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Industry. Has the minister's attention been directed to the fact that within the last two weeks there have been substantial lay-offs of skilled and semi-skilled workmen in branches of Canada's machine tool industry which up to now have been manufacturing automobile parts?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I do not think it is proper to ask whether this type of information has been brought to the attention of the minister. Certainly that is not the type of question which should be asked at this time.

[Later:]

Mr. Nesbitt: Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Industry. Has he instructed officials of his department to look into the causes of and remedies for the recent lay-offs in the automobile parts industry in Canada?

Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Industry): They have been engaged in this task for the past three weeks, Mr. Speaker.

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Inquiries of the Ministry

HATE LITERATURE

INQUIRY AS TO COMMISSION REPORT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Prime Minister. On Monday last I asked him about the report of the Maxwell Cohen committee on legislation concerning a possible amendment to the Criminal Code dealing with hate literature, and whether he was considering tabling copies of that report even though the printing had not been completed. The hon. gentleman was good enough to say that he would look into the matter and reply "tomorrow or the next day". That "tomorrow" was yesterday and the "next day" is today. I wonder whether the right hon. Prime Minister can give us a reply at this time?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I have not as yet had an opportunity to read the full text of the report, and I wonder whether in the circumstances my hon. friend will allow me to say again that I will reply tomorrow or the next day.

Mr. Lewis: What alternative have I?

INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I wish to address an unprecedented double-barrelled question to the right hon. Prime Minister and the right hon. leader of the official opposition.

In view of the suggestion which appeared in today's *Gazette*, that the Prime Minister would respectfully propose to His Excellency the Governor General that the member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) should be asked to form a coalition government, would the right hon. gentlemen care to make some remarks on this unique proposal?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, while this question I know is out of order, perhaps you will allow me to say this. I am sure my hon. friend has asked this question in very good faith and is undoubtedly interested in this kind of change, because it is the only kind of change which could ever permit him to serve in a government.