

was given to that matter, less attention than they deserved was given to the recommendations of the Clyne committee which the Prime Minister tabled at the same time. It seems to have taken some time for those concerned to become aware of the significance of the recommendations of the Clyne committee, but I submit that some of them are very serious and, as a matter of fact, all of them are of significance.

The point I wish to make in support of my pressing again tonight the question I asked on May 11 and 12 is that when the Prime Minister tabled the Clyne committee report on April 26 he picked out one recommendation in it which, he said, the government refused to accept. There was no suggestion that that amounted to a prejudging of the study of the Public Service Staff Relations Act. The government took its position and made it clear there was one recommendation which it refused to accept. There were certain other recommendations which it said it was prepared to accept. There were one or two which it said it had already put into effect. As for this question of removing senior public servants from the provisions of collective bargaining, the Prime Minister said that that could well be studied by the committee which is operating under the aegis of the Minister of Manpower and Immigration (Mr. Lang).

It is my contention that the government, having identified clearly the portion of the Clyne report to which it was opposed has, by implication, accepted the rest of that report. To tell us that it has been referred for study when it is not willing to take a position on it in public as it did on one matter is, as I see it, to imply a readiness to accept that recommendation.

It is my observation that many public servants in the area affected are quite concerned about this. The organizations that represent them are expressing that concern. This is true in particular of the Professional Institute of the Public Service and the Professional Association of Foreign Service Officers. These two staff associations would be most affected if the Clyne recommendation were carried out. But even though the two organizations most affected are the two that I have indicated, the Public Service Alliance of Canada has also taken the same view. It has come to the aid of its sister associations in urging that the government come clean with respect to this matter.

I submit it is not good enough just to tell us that to ask for a statement is to ask for a prejudging of the recommendation of the special committee. We have been through this kind of thing before. If we sit back and say nothing, the government can well come along and accept the Clyne recommendation and thousands of these senior public servants will be removed from the area of collective bargaining.

Maybe the government is not in a position to say at this point that under no condition will it agree with the Clyne recommendation, but it ought at least to refrain from accepting it in advance; it ought to make it clear that its mind is open on the matter. The impression I get is that its mind is not open, that it has in effect accepted all of the Clyne report except the one point; and that

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leaves the whole matter in a very unsatisfactory situation. I note that the Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Gillespie) is here tonight to answer on behalf of the minister. I hope he will have something much more hopeful for us than has yet been given during the question period by the President of the Treasury Board.

**Mr. Alastair Gillespie (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to answer the question put by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles). As he, in his introductory remarks, recited the circumstances which gave rise to this particular question I do not think it necessary to go over that ground again. I think there were three citations, two questions that he put to the minister, and a third the statement made by the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) on April 26.

It seems to me that the hon. member is doing two things. First of all he is speculating about what may be in the government's mind, and second he is trying to adduce a certain logic from the position taken by the government. He has stated, in effect, that because the government has accepted a number of the proposals of the Clyne committee and because it has refused to accept one other proposal, therefore in saying that it is going to give consideration to a third, somehow or other it has already prejudged the issue. I would draw his attention to the section of the Prime Minister's remarks when he said:

The advisory group recommends that the managerial group excluded from collective bargaining should be more clearly identified and enlarged—

Here is the key part

—and the government is prepared to have this matter studied further in conjunction with the review of legislation affecting collective bargaining.

Surely this is clear. The government has said it is a matter it will take under consideration. It is not prejudging the issue. It formed a committee to undertake this particular review and it is assigning this particular recommendation of the Clyne committee to that committee. For the minister or anybody else at this time to state an opinion would be prejudging the issue. For those reasons, Mr. Speaker, I regret that I am not in a position to add anything more to what has already been said by the minister on this matter.

#### MANPOWER—MEASURES TO ASSIST SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING GRADUATES TO OBTAIN APPROPRIATE EMPLOYMENT—STIMULATION OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

**Mr. Doug Rowland (Selkirk):** Mr. Speaker, on April 5 the Science Council of Canada made public a background report which revealed that Canadian graduates in science and engineering are now experiencing, and could expect to continue to experience for some time in the future, considerable difficulty in obtaining employment related to their training. It is absolutely appalling to me that this country is unable to employ the talents of these people. In human terms, how can we say to these people that