

Supply—Defence Production

and not by mine. The department determines the potential of labour markets and in the present case, namely in the Trois-Rivières riding, there are two labour markets: one in Trois-Rivières, and the other in Grand'Mère.

I will submit the hon. member's representations to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration (Mr. Marchand).

With regard to bilingualism within the public service and the tendency of some section heads to fight the introduction of bilingualism, I admit it is probably true in some cases.

On the other hand, I know what bilingualism means, especially when I call one of my deputy ministers and I am told that he is attending a French course.

If there is any resistance, I can assure the hon. member that I will do what I can, as well as my deputy ministers, to ensure the successful implementation of that policy.

[*English*]

Mr. Chairman, I regret that I do not have before me this evening the figures concerning the details of the valuation of this property of Haley Industries, including the depreciated value of the machinery and the value of the inventory. My officials who are present this evening do not have this information with them, either. If the hon. gentleman insists upon receiving the information in the house before passing the estimates, then the item will have to stand. If he is agreeable to the item passing then I will undertake to see that this information is provided for him not later than 2.30 tomorrow.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): Mr. Chairman, in answering the question of the hon. member for Swift Current-Maple Creek the minister referred to his authority as the minister in charge of Crown Assets Disposal Corporation. Would the minister mind quoting that authority again.

Mr. Drury: Under Section 5(e) of the Surplus Crown Assets Act the Minister of Defence Production may authorize a government department to dispose of surplus crown assets in such manner, upon such terms and subject to such conditions as he may consider desirable.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): The minister has quoted that authority which he enjoys, but which is not enjoyed by other members of the cabinet, including the former minister of national defence, now the Minister of Transport. Nowhere in what he has

[Mr. Drury.]

quoted does he have authority to discharge in respect of any surplus government assets. He has merely quoted his responsibility as the minister in charge of crown assets.

I should like to ask the minister to turn now to the crown assets disposal act and quote the procedure which must be followed by him as well as by any other minister of the crown, and therefore refute what he has just used as his authority to sell through other than the Crown Assets Disposal Corporation. Would the minister quote that authority.

Mr. Drury: I have just quoted from section 5(e) of the Surplus Crown Assets Act.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): I am asking the minister to quote the procedure any minister must follow. There is a procedure laid down for the minister in charge of crown assets, as well as a procedure which is applicable to every minister of the government. What is laid down applies to every minister of the government despite the fact that he may be in charge of crown assets. There is a procedure, and by violating this procedure I believe the minister is doing a snow job on the opposition.

No one questions the authority of the minister in charge of crown assets disposal, but there is a general procedure which must be followed and this is the procedure the minister is trying to violate, just as the Minister of Finance has violated the Bank Act and just as other ministers violate the procedure which is laid down. I ask the minister to show us where it is stated in the crown assets disposal act that he has authority to do this by following any different procedure than any other minister of the crown would have to follow.

Mr. Drury: I have read this once and I will read it again, slowly. Under section 5(e) of the act the Minister of Defence Production may authorize a government department, which includes the Department of Defence Production, to dispose of surplus crown assets in such manner, upon such terms and subject to such conditions as he may consider desirable. I suggest that that is statutory authority to authorize a department to enter into disposal arrangements which the Minister of Defence Production considers desirable.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): I will also state my question as plainly and as slowly as possible for the minister's benefit. The special letter to which he has referred states that any department of government